INVESTIGATIVE REPORT: THE HUMAN SMUGGLERS

Tracing the perilous route from China across Canada to New York

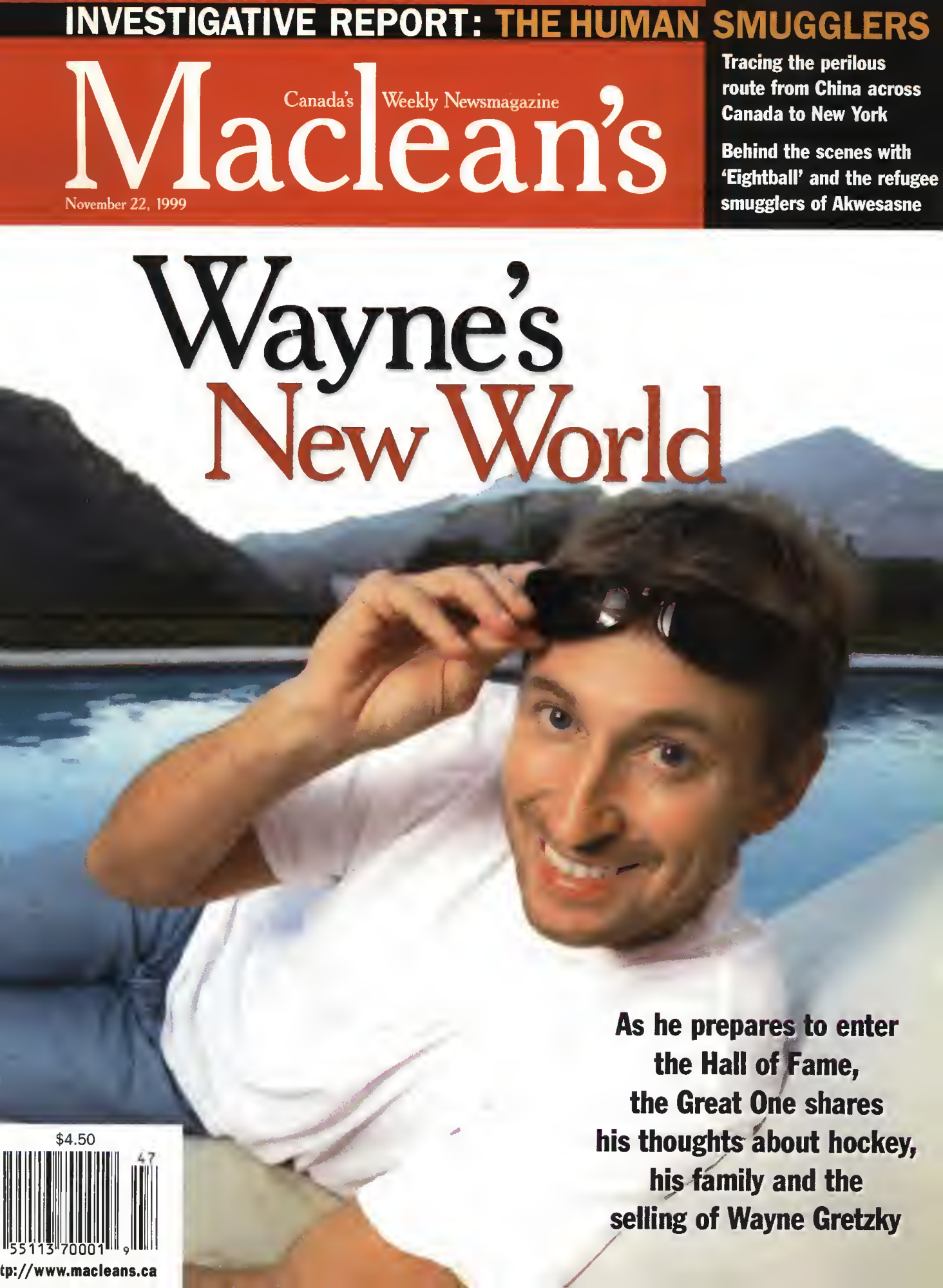
Behind the scenes with 'Eightball' and the refugee smugglers of Akwesasne

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

Maclean's

November 22, 1999

Wayne's New World



As he prepares to enter the Hall of Fame, the Great One shares his thoughts about hockey, his family and the selling of Wayne Gretzky

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Maclean's
Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

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Cover



Ian Tomlinson/for Maclean's

62 Wayne's new world

Since his emotional departure from the league he transformed, Wayne Gretzky has become a ubiquitous presence in television and print ads On the eve of his induction into the Hall of Fame, the Great One talks about hockey, his family—and the public perils of selling himself

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The inside story of the Akwesasne natives who deliver Chinese migrants from the Ontario reserve to New York City after a perilous journey to Vancouver and Toronto

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Ted Grant/Nishnawbe-Aski Nation

While Napess Ashini was in London to discuss suicide among his people, his own son took his life, the latest victim of the despair in Innu communities



98 Pages of Wonder

Marking Children's Book Week, *Maclean's* reviews an impressive array of Canadian picture books and fiction for preteens—and the enduring spell of Harry Potter

From the

Editor



The story behind the stories

For reporters, going on the toad is where they find their best stories This week, road trips resulted in three compelling features: an exclusive report on the smuggling of Chinese migrants through Canada to New York City, a haunting account of the life and suicide of 15-year-old Andrew Rich in the squalid Labrador Innu community of Shesbatshiu, and a day in the life of corporate pitchman Wayne Gretzky in Calgary as he discovers life after hockey

In all, five *Maclean's* journalists on two continents worked for two months under the direction of Senior Editor Berton Woodward to document the underground smuggling of Chinese and other migrants to Vancouvet and Toronto and then through Ontario's Akwesasne reserve to their destination of choice, New York City. "The details of the smuggling operation may surprise many readers," says Woodward, "and raise challenging questions about how Canada responds to the flood of migtants now travelling the world."









Fennell (above left) and Snel at Akwesasne, DeMont (below left); Woodward (centre); Deacon· roads trips

Senior Writer Tom Fennell made two journeys into Akwesasne's underground. One reserve resident, concerned that so many young people were getting involved in the illicit trade to pay for drug habits, offered to help. Eventually, Fennell met a man calling himself "Eightball" who took him and staff photographer Phill Snel down to the river and showed them how and where he had taken illegals across.

Meanwhile, Beijing correspondent Paul Mooney traced the toute of migrants from Fujian province, China-born correspondent Sheng Xue interviewed smuggled migrants in Totonto, and Washington Bureau Chief Andrew Phillips went to New York City to witness the stark conditions the Chinese endure after reaching their supposed promised land. In Vancouver, Bureau Chief Chris Wood interviewed one of the women imprisoned after trying to land illegally in Canada by boat last summer, re-creating details of her terrifying journey He also discovered a West Coast equivalent of Akwesasne for crossing into the United States in the farm region near Chilliwack, B C., then gained special access to a federal hearing for another Fujianese migrant woman.

Halifax Buteau Chief John DeMont's assignment was equally unsettling. He attended the funeral of young Andrew Rich in the Labrador Innu community of Sheshatshiu and talked with the boy's gnef-stricken father about the despair that is leading to so many teen suicides in the community "The Innu face an almost unbelievable catalogue of woes," DeMont says, "but I was struck by the sheer tenacity of their spirit."

In Calgary, Sports Editor James Deacon spent most of a day with Gretzky, who shared his thoughts about business, his family and the couples' recent sortow after his wife, Janet, miscarried Gretzky also addressed criticism about the extent of his corporate endorsements. But from the reception he got from young and old, Gretzky clearly is still the Great One

Robert Lewis



The Mail

'Net' allure



"Beware the Internet underground" (Cover, Nov. 8) fed your readers quite a story, but misinformed them about the reality of the Internet. Functions provided by Hotline Connect software such as file transfer, image viewing, live chat and newsboards are anything but "underground." Those technologies have evolved over the past 30 years and are used by millions on the World Wide Web, Usenet, IRC, FTP and many other Internet services. The description of Hotline Connect's user base as a "community of thieves" was sensationalist. The reason for the popularity of Hotline software is that our technology is better. This is the allure to both novice and advanced Internet users (and, according to your own journalists, at least one member of *Maclean's* staff). Your writer focused exclusively on a small segment of Hotline users on public trackers, ignoring the existence of the thousands of organizations that use the software to create Intranets. Your special report also failed to distinguish between our company, Hotline Communications, and the Hotline user universe, creating the impression that our company is involved with illegal content. Hotline Communications does not condone illegal content. We are well aware of the seriousness of software piracy since, in our first year of business as a software vendor, less than two per cent of our users had actually paid for our product. Our response to this problem was to change our business model. The Hotline Communications-administered network—as distinguished from Hotline software—is a rapidly growing gateway with strict terms of service. We receive hundreds of applications per day from businesses, schools, associations and individuals worldwide wishing to be part of this community network.

John Caliendo, Chief Financial Officer, Hotline Communications Ltd., Toronto

This is the first concise and in-depth article on software piracy I've read in a major newsmagazine, and the only one to do enough research to cover all sides of the issue. You should be proud of the quality of your research.

David Granatstein, Waterloo, Ont.

I am a high-school senior. I've been involved with the Internet since its infancy—I've practically grown up online. I have never found a medium so rich with talented, individualistic persons. Ideas, concepts and discussions flow around the world in real time, connecting the insights of civilization. As with any new technological advancement, one can always find negative impacts. If piracy and pornography are what people want, then the Internet becomes an easier way for people to obtain such material. Unfortunately, not many children have parents who understand the concept of the Net, let alone the material out there. Blaming the Internet or software for negative spin-offs isn't attacking the root of the problem. As a country, we need to realize that our future lies within technology, and we need to better educate the individuals driving this change: our youth. There's a whole new culture breeding right in our homes—and bringing us all a little closer together.

Lorne Bradley Neudorf, Brandon, Man.

Hotline is only a small part of the Net underground. And it used to be a nice community before PC servers started invading it. I have been a pretty well-known person in the Macintosh underground, helping others as much as I could with the little knowledge I had the chance to gain from a few years passed with the most infamous personalities of the Mac underground, such as The Weasel, oleBuzzard, Buck Rogers, Zeus, Moondark and others. This letter is not meant to discredit your article, though I must say it lacks information about the underground communities, and it stereotypes. No, Doom II is not a cool game; Site0 doesn't look like the most elite group at the time. Ever heard of DefCon? *That* is the real underground, not lame warez sites.

Guillaume Bélanger, Montreal

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Hampered heroes

We expect the men and women of our Canadian Forces search-and-rescue squadron to risk their lives on a daily basis using equipment that in itself could cause a disaster ("'It takes a special person,'" Canada, Oct. 25). To ask them to fly helicopters that are 35 years old while they wait for our government to purchase replacements is more than I can fathom. Surely we can afford to buy at least three off the shelf immediately to tide them over until delivery of their new helicopters begins in 2001. Maybe the next time our SAR techs do a training run in the old Labradors they should take the minister of national defence with them—nothing like a trip in an aircraft held together with baling wire to make one sit up and pay attention.

Sheila M. McCormack, Nelson, B.C.



A changing Canada

Conservation and the environment are the responsibility of all Canadians, both native and non-native. A treaty signed in Canada's early years could not possibly have envisioned Canada or the world as we live in it today ("Beyond Burnt Church," Canada, Oct. 18). Life has changed. Every Canadian, regardless of race or origin, is a part of this change—like it or not. We must *all* do what we have to do.

Mike Murray, Sarnia, Ont.



Co-operative art

I was thrilled to read about the work of musician Pinchas Zukerman and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, especially their efforts to bring classical music to grade schools and high schools across our nation ("A white knight hits the road," Music, Oct. 18). The "light" that this energetic man and the NAC troupe are bringing to our country is to be celebrated. For that reason, I was thoroughly disappointed that you chose to make the artist Bill Reid the cover feature in the same issue ("Trade secrets"). A Canadian icon? Not in my estimation.

Brian Krushel, Camrose, Alta.

Apparently, *Maclean's* got so wrapped up in discrediting Bill Reid it forgot to acknowledge the creator of the remarkable new sculpture commemorating the Persons Case ("Prominent 'persons,' " Opening Notes, Oct. 18). We learned a lot about the deep pockets of the donors but nothing of the artist herself. For the record, she is Barbara Paterson of Edmonton.

Tom Sharthouse, Port Moody, B.C.

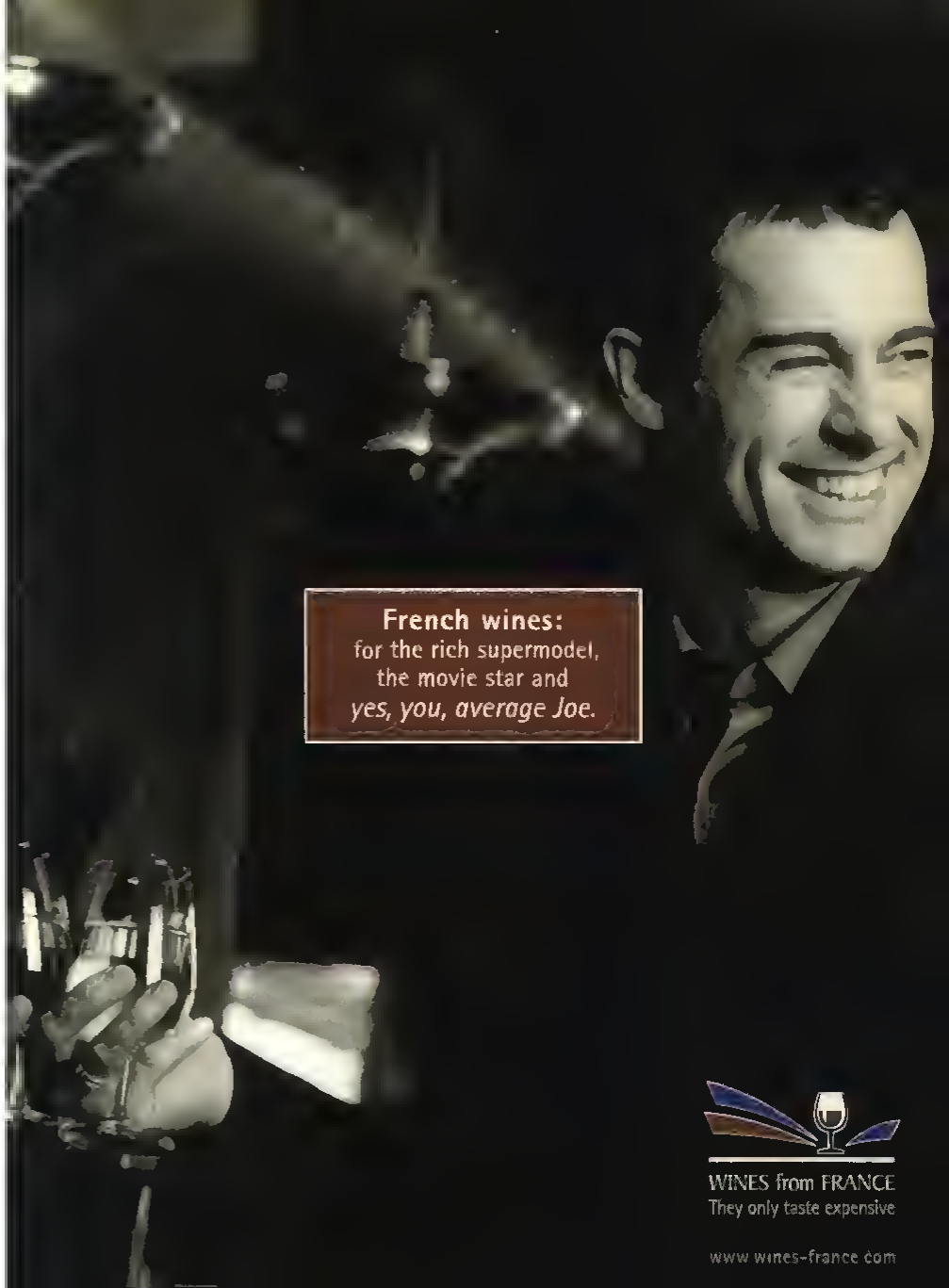
Fear for America

Your review "The big screen heats up" (Film, Sept. 27) states that *American Beauty* was "one of the most talked-about films at the festival" and that "it will continue to be talked about—all the way up to Oscar time." That is not surprising. I saw this movie last week. It is truly devastating to think that this film reveals American suburbia with uncanny insight. Though I fear for the American nation, I have a hard time believing that it is in the horrific state as satirized in this movie.

Marg Haliburton, Halifax

Close to Reform?

It's unlike Barbara Amiel to indulge in published fantasy, but she did that twice in her column of Oct. 25 ("Canada's left-wing battle"). First, in dreaming up an excuse to avoid supporting the conservatism of Preston



Manning and his Reform followers: "I can't help feeling that if a lot of them had their way, we'd live in a bit of a Big Nurse Protestant theocracy." She couldn't really believe that if she had read Reform's policy supporting freedom of conscience and religion, or Manning's own views on religion and politics in his book *The New Canada*. Her second fantasy is a takeover of the Liberal party by young people who would then have it adopt a series of acceptable policies. But nearly everything Amiel says she stands for is to be found in the Reform Blue Sheet of principles and policies.

Robert Nielsen, Wilmot, N.B.

Barbara Amiel has gotten it right: we allowed Pierre Trudeau and his ilk, who couldn't get elected to power with the NDP, to hijack the Liberal party and turn Canada into a socialist country. Politicians of the other parties followed the leftist line believing it would help their election possibilities. Not until Preston Manning came along have we had a party that doesn't, or at least didn't, take on the lefty line looking for an election win.

Lloyd Dunham, Gananoque, Ont.

Barbara Amiel has missed the obvious contradiction in her own list of "liberal" beliefs when, in her first point, she claims to believe in "no special privileges for any group." Immediately following that, she asks for the freedom to have a second-tier medical-care system. I know she reasons that the well-off could compete for the services of those devoted to "excellence" in the medical field, thus freeing up the waiting lists and caseloads for those "aging flower children, ideological, magic mushroom eating, bell-bottom wearing" doctors who still believe in universal health care, but I think her concept of no special privileges and mine differ. What Amiel is really saying is no special privileges for any group—but the rich.

Bill MacLean, Toronto

Economic sense

Robert Mundell is another Canadian who had to leave the country to be recognized, and he was—with a Nobel Prize in economics ("Renaissance man," World, Oct. 25). My exposure to his ideas is limited to the recent media coverage. But I like what seems to be the general drift of his thinking that led to the euro, and his recommendation that the Canuck buck be pegged to the U.S. dollar. Other reports have pointed out that the dollar's disastrous decline is the result of Canadian manipulation. The effect is increasing parochialism, which, in today's world climate, is akin to sawing off the limb you are sitting on closer to the tree trunk.

Roman N. Borsch, Toronto



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The St. Clair by Barclay-Grayson captures the Victorian flavour of the Yonge and St. Clair area. The development mirrors the grand homes of the 1920's era.

THE *Changing* FACE *of* TORONTO'S *Urban* LANDSCAPE

Choose between Traditional or Contemporary Architecture

Toronto is undergoing a toetamorphosis. With new house/condo developments being built and sold in unprecedented numbers, the look of the city is quickly changing. According to PMA Brethour, Toronto is experiencing one of its hottest real estate markets ever. ■ Sales for 1999 are expected to increase by 12 per cent over 1998, the best in the past decade, with condominiums accounting for 78 per cent of sales. Toronto has become a diverse collection of architecture that is reflective of its cosmopolitan nature, with influences from Europe, Asia and the United States. The driving force behind the proliferation of styles, according to Nestor Repetski, an industry veteran, boils down to what people want to buy. ■ Toronto is deeply rooted in tradition, with neighbourhoods maintaining their historical nature. This was the basis for the design of **The St. Clair,** a new condo development located near Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue, by Barclay-Grayson (www.baker-re.com/thestclair.htm). Designed to appeal to the growing empty nester population of the affluent Yonge and St. Clair area, this development's architecture reflects the surrounding neighborhood. Roy Varacalli, the site architect, paid close attention to the character of the neighbourhood to ensure that The St. Clair will fit into a community that has roots from the 1920s. ▶

If you are a fan of classic architecture, you can also visit **The Boardwalk** in the Beaches area (www.pemberbertongroup.com) or the **Thornwood** at Yonge and Summerhill subway station in Rosedale. If your heart is in a house rather than a condo, you can visit a collection of New England-inspired townhomes by Intracorp at their **Players Club** development (www.baker-re.com/playersclub.htm) in the Kingsway waterfront community.

• • •

The Diamante Group, one of Toronto's most acclaimed builders, is a leader in contemporary design in condominium developments. Their project **Domus in Yorkville** received the 1998 Project of the Year from the Greater Toronto Homebuilders Association (www.diamante1.com). Paolo Palamara's architectural vision for the building was for the structure to touch the sky in a modern interpretation of Gothic architecture. Domus incorporates design elements that marry the old with the new. The result is a fresh approach, with striking interiors reminiscent of a 1920's Parisian atelier and rare in today's condominium architecture.

"Pat Baker of Baker Real Estate Corporation states that the hot downtown condo market is being partially driven by the empty-nester market, with sales in some new condo sites reaching 50 per cent. Builders are catering to this fast-growing, affluent market with architecture that has made Toronto one of the best places to buy real estate in Canada, if not North America."

• • •

Another contemporary development you must visit are the **NY Towers on Bayview** (www.baker-re.com/nytowers.htm). One tower has a striking and elegant pointed structure, not typical of residential buildings. The architecture was inspired by the Chrysler Building in New York, according to Leib Waldman of Whitleigh Developments. Another site to visit is the **Merchandise Building** at Dundas and Church by Cresford Developments – a renovated industrial building that offers contemporary loft living, with some interior designs that are truly leading edge.



The interior design of the model suite at Domus in Yorkville has no hallways, which allows for larger rooms. This design has a spectacular sculpted circular staircase, resembling a grand mansion with a distinct European influence.

Written by Martin Seto, New Homes Consultant. He can be contacted at mseto@homebuyers.com for any questions or home-buying advice.

Project Profile

THE ST. CLAIR HAS THE CORNER OF LUXURY AT YONGE & ST. CLAIR

IN TORONTO'S FASHIONABLE Yonge and St. Clair area, Delisle Avenue has always had a certain cachet. Now the quiet, tree-lined street is preparing to welcome **The St. Clair**, where developers Barclay-Grayson are creating a sophisticated new condominium residence.

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With almost two dozen different floor plans from which to choose, you can opt for a one-or two-bedroom with balcony (some two bedrooms also have dens) or a fabulous terraced penthouse. All provide breathtaking views of the building's beautiful landscaped courtyard and/or the city beyond.



The St. Clair - Living Room

Luxury features are found in abundance. Elegant foyers with hardwood floors. Large living-dining rooms with oversized windows. Kitchens featuring custom-quality Eurostyle cabinetry, granite countertops and a full appliance package. Master bedrooms with walk-in closets and private ensuites in which to pamper yourself.

From the New York-style porte cochère entrance, one steps into a grand two-storey lobby with a 24-hour concierge. Other amenities include a spacious reception lounge (complete with bar and kitchen), plus an adjacent games room. Both open in turn on to a large formally landscaped courtyard and garden, which can also be enjoyed from the vantage of the upper-level aerobics and exercise room.

Suites at The St. Clair are priced from $159,900 to over $750,000. The sales office is located across from the site at 15 Delisle Avenue. For a private appointment, call (416) 0513-0029 or check out the project's web-site at www.baker-re.com/thestclair.html.

Two GRAND Examples Of What Makes *Diamante* Rise Above The Rest.





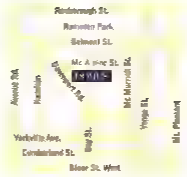
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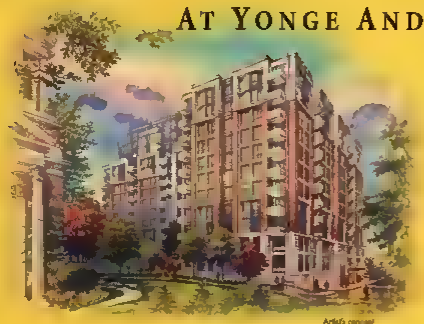
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Publisher: Paul Jones

'To serve our people'

Your article "Building new bridges" (Cover, Sept. 27), about a new generation of younger natives coming into its own, raised my interest and curiosity. I am the youngest of three brothers of Métis ancestry, and we all are pursuing medicine as a career. We come from a single-parent family, raised by our father. We were all born and raised in Winnipeg. The eldest of us has his own medical practice and is a specialist in rehabilitation medicine. My next eldest brother was a high-school dropout who then went on to become a registered nurse; now, he is in third-year medical school. I was also a high-school dropout and then I turned my life around, subsequently becoming an RN as well, and now I am also in medical school—this fall, I started first year at the University of Manitoba. The two of us who were nurses went to northern Manitoba and we lived on reserves and worked almost exclusively with treaty, non-treaty aboriginals and Métis peoples. When we graduate, we will band together to form our own practice. The foundation for this has already been laid. My eldest brother has started another business that caters to the needs of aboriginal people. This is the first of many projects that we all are going to become involved in upon graduation, to serve our own people.
Gerald Hoy, Winnipeg

Acquiring Pokémon

At 14, I'm not an avid collector of Pokémon; I quite dislike it ("The craze that ate your kids," Lifestyles, Nov. 8). But I wanted to bring to your attention that it's not just Pokémon that is a megahit in North America, but the whole line of Japanese animation. Some of the biggest names are *Dragonball* by Akira Toriyama, *Sailor Moon* by Naoko Takeuchi, *Ranma 1/2* by Rumiko Takahashi and *Gunnm* by Yukito Kishiro. I find it impressive that Japanese animators are making such an impression in North America.
Michael Fotkerson, Masham, Que.

My suspicion is that the Pokémon phenomenon is an acquisition craze, having nothing to do with the game of Pokémon. The binders children carry around are for displaying and trading. They are quite impractical when it comes to playing. And this is what I find disturbing: a perfectly reasonable strategic game has somehow turned into a "game" where children talk about "I've got this, what have you got?"
George Klima, Mississauga, Ont.

Honourable citizens

I nominate Dr. R. Bruce Shepard, director of the Diefenbaker Canada Centre at the University of Saskatchewan for the annual *Maclean's* Honour Roll recognizing Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their community. In the past five years, Dr. Shepard has established the centre as a place where visitors can learn about Canada's political, social and cultural history through permanent and travelling displays. He has worked tirelessly to promote programs that educate Canadians about leadership and citizenship and instil a sense of pride in our history.
Lee Brodie, Saskatoon

I present Linda Abrahams of the Women's Art Resource Centre as an exceptional candidate for *Maclean's* 14th annual Honour Roll. Abrahams is the editor of *Matriart* magazine, a Canadian women's art journal, and co-director of the resource centre, which empowers and affirms the vital role of women's art practice within Canadian culture.
David Downey Gale, Stratford, Ont.

Lack of vision?

Accolades for your Nov. 1 Lifestyles feature, "The best of both worlds," on Canadians moving back to the city. It is nice to see Edmonton included in the "Downtown looks up" chart. In the mid-1980s, a visionary Edmonton city council developed two downtown communities as "villages in the valley" with a



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variety of housing forms appropriate to those historic neighbourhoods Rossdale and Cloverdale have won planning awards and are featured on almost every piece of literature promoting the city. You mention that there may be an "ugly side" to the trend and cite ill-suited developments How about a 750-megawatt power plant? That's what our city council now plans to add to the Rossdale community and Edmonton's renowned River Valley. Rossdale residents and Edmontonians have not been allowed a say on a decision that will see a huge power plant operating just a few hundred metres from their doors. The project will see a designated historic building demolished and a transformer yard expanded to the doorstep of Edmonton's downtown. All this from a city that acted as a property developer and has reaped millions of dollars from the rewards of driving up land prices some 400 per cent, as well as inflating property taxes. Guess the lesson is, if you get a good thing going, don't let the politicians in or you'll have the worst of both worlds—sky-high taxes and an industrial neighbourhood. Is this really the 21st century coming up?

Diane Oxenford, Edmonton

The 'strained' Forces

It is good to see that *Maclean's* has not lost sight of the good the Canadian Forces do ("Moving in to Timor," World, Nov 8). More could have been said about the amphibious landing they made, as I believe it was the first on foreign soil since Korea. You were right when you stated that Canada's military is strained by tight budgets and numerous peacekeeping missions. The government has clawed back funding to the point where, if any more missions are undertaken, soldiers are going to die needlessly. It has forgotten what our military has contributed to this country this past century.

Chris Farrish, Godench, Ont.

Not since the end of the Second World War have our armed forces been asked to do so much with so little. It was embarrassing to read about our efforts: two tired transport planes, the only naval supply ship (leaving the West Coast fleet now deprived of strategic support) and one measly infantry company—placed under foreign command. Before embarking on any more international "showboating" that places Canadians in harm's way, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, et al, need to be shocked back to reality. Our Forces are past the point of no return, barring an early shift in foreign policy and a major infusion of cash to hire more people and buy modern weapons.

J. Cecil Berezowski, Brentwood Bay, B.C.

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by Sarah

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Maclean's
Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

Beyond the Newsstand



Canada in the Fifties captures the mood of the country as it stood on the cusp of tremendous change. Maclean's Editorial Director of New Ventures Michael Benedict selected the pieces, which include profiles of artists and newsmakers of the day, such as W.O. Mitchell, Wayne and Shuster and William Shatner. *Canada in the Fifties* offers an indispensable tribute to our nation in the middle of the twentieth century.

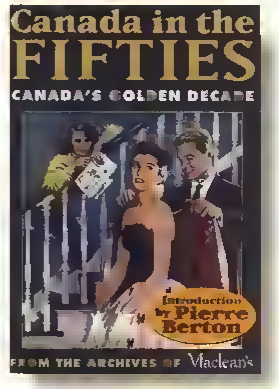
• *Canada in the Fifties* is published by Penguin Books Canada Limited and retails for $35. Both books are available at major bookstores across Canada.

Maclean's editors have assembled new collections of stories which celebrate the country's rich history with the release of two new books: *Canada's Century* and *Canada in the Fifties: Canada's Golden Decade*.

Canada's Century, selected and introduced by General Editor Carl Mollins, is the story of Canada from the dawn of the century to the present day, as captured in the pages of Maclean's magazine.

Excerpts include bylines of celebrated Canadian authors like Pierre Berton, Nellie McClung, Peter C. Newman, Ralph Allen and June Callwood.

• *Canada's Century* is published by Key Porter Books and retails for $55.



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Notes

Edited by Tanya Davies

Brr-inging in the New Year

Spending New Year's Eve in a tent pitched on the frigid, windswept Plains of Abraham in Quebec City wouldn't be everyone's choice for greeting the new millennium. But thousands of boy scouts and girl guides from as far away as Tahiti, Burkina Faso and Paraguay have warmed to the idea. From Dec. 27 to Jan. 5, close to 4,000 teenagers are expected to camp on the Plains as part of a gathering called the *Jam des neiges*. The brainchild of the Quebec Scouts Federation, the international jamboree is the first to be held in winter, according to Claude Despatie, the event's director general.

The frosty experience does not come cheaply: it costs $450 to take part, not including transportation. And for scouts and guides from warmer climates, a clothing kit consisting of a snowsuit, hat, mittens, boots and a sleeping bag can be purchased for $325. Despatie admits that "the question that comes to us the most are fears about the cold."

Organizers had hoped to attract 10,000 hardy teenagers, but by early November only 3,300 scouts and guides had signed up from 43 countries. "It's not a disappointment," insists Despatie, "but we would have liked to have had a few more." The smaller crowd hasn't made staging the event any easier, though. Organizers will set up 125 tents equipped to sleep 30 people each over a 1.2-km area. Each tent will be heated to 14° C and meals will be provided in a cafeteria. And 650 volunteers will help plan activities that include skating, skiing and sightseeing.

What surprised Despatie was the level of interest shown by scouts and guides from temperate climes. The Mexican delegation, for example, numbers almost 170 people. Says Despatie: "I think it's the adventure that appeals to them."



Scouts and Guides at last year's jamboree in Santiago, Chile. southern campers are bracing for winter fun in Quebec

A judge takes aim



Oppal, too many are going to jail

Wally Oppal, a justice with the British Columbia Supreme Court thinks an unacceptable number of people are being wrongly convicted—and he is not shy about making his views public. Last week, Oppal chose an audience of lab technicians to unload a broadside at his own profession, and at widely held misunderstandings about it. "A criminal trial is not an inquiry into truth," Oppal told 150 people attending the British Columbia Society of Laboratory Science's day-long workshop on forensic science in New Westminster. "It is not a contest between victim and offender." It is about reasonable doubt, and Oppal believes that many juries do not get an adequate explanation of that concept from judges. Where reasonable doubt exists, accused people must be set free, he insisted, "even if it is probable they did it." Instead, Oppal said, "I see cases where I think there is reasonable doubt, where people are going to jail. People are getting convicted that shouldn't be convicted."

Oppal also levelled his guns at "expert" witnesses, particularly psychologists who have persuaded the courts in recent years to expand the definition of allowable testimony to include such alleged phenomena as "repressed memory syndrome." Said Oppal: "We've had so-called 'truth experts.' We let that evidence in and people have been convicted. More recently, we've had another body of psychologists come and tell us that that is hooey. What do we do with the people who are in jail?" Some lawyers may soon be thinking of calling Oppal as a witness—for the defence.



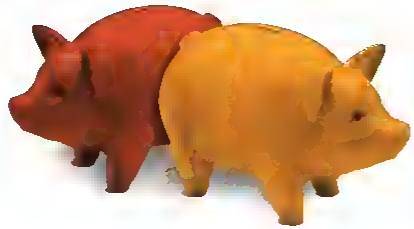
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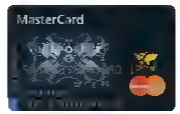
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A screenwriting sensation

When Toronto screenwriter Annmarie Morais accepts her Nicholl Screenwriting Fellowship in Los Angeles this week, she will have much to be proud of. Her screenplay *Bleeding*, a riveting family drama, beat out 4,000 entries from 26 countries to win one of five coveted $25,000 (U.S.) prizes. At 26, Morais is the first Canadian—and non-U.S. resident, for that matter—to win in the award's 14-year history. It was the second year in a row that Morais entered the same script into the prestigious competition, which is sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and open to anyone who has not sold a screenplay or teleplay for more than $5,000 (U.S.). Although she didn't win last year, being one of 10 finalists gave her screenwriting career an immediate boost. "Before I submitted the script to the contest," says Morais, "I sent it around Canada and it wasn't even read." Since then, Morais has received more than 70 calls from Hollywood agents, producers and production companies interested in getting *Bleeding* to the big screen.

This year's victory puts the York University film graduate into some select company. Previous finalists include Jim Uhls, who wrote the script for the current hit movie *Fight Club*, and Ehren Kruger, whose thriller *Arlington Road* was released in the summer. Morais's script is in the same provocative vein. *Bleeding* tells the story of a relationship between two sisters, one claims to have been raped by their stepfather, the other possesses a different memory of what happened. "The story is really about truth," says Morais, "and the ramifications of dealing with the truth head on." And what's the truth right now for Morais? She is hitting Hollywood head on.



Colin McConnell/Toronto Star

Morais, a tale that beat out 4,000 others

Best-Sellers

Fiction

		POSITION LAST WEEK
1.	**A GOOD HOUSE,** Bonnie Burnard (1)	
2.	**NO GREAT MISCHIEF,** Alistair MacLeod (4)	2
3.	**DISGRACE,** J.M. Coetzee (2)	4
4.	**PILGRIM,** Timothy Findley (13)	5
5.	**SLANDER,** William Deverell (3)	7
6.	**PERSONAL INJURIES,** Scott Turow (6)	3
7.	**A STAR CALLED HENRY,** Roddy Doyle (9)	6
8.	**THE MUSEUM AT PURGATORY,** Nick Bantock (5)	9
9	**SECOND WIND,** Dick Francis (3)	1
10.	**THE MARK OF THE ANGEL,** Nancy Huston (3)	10

Nonfiction

1.	**'TIS,** Frank McCourt (7)	1
2.	**LAST PAGE FIRST,** Allan Fotheringham (3)	2
3.	**PAPER SHADOWS,** Wayson Choy (6)	7
4.	**JAN WONG'S CHINA,** Jan Wong (7)	3
5.	**THE ARK OF THE COVENANT,** Roderick Grierson (1)	
6.	**THE WATER IN BETWEEN,** Kevin Patterson (1)	
7	**THE MITROKHIN ARCHIVE,** Christopher Andrew and Vasili Mitrokhin (7)	6
8.	**THE CLOSER WE ARE TO DYING,** Joe Fiorito (4)	10
9	**SISTERS IN THE WILDERNESS,** Charlotte Gray (2)	8
10	**BALTIMORE'S MANSION,** Wayne Johnston (8)	4

() Weeks on list

Compiled by Brian Bethune

Lessons from the past

For 30 years, Neil Postman has been one of modern North America's most trenchant critics. The New York University media professor has authored books railing against a television-obsessed, irrational society enamoured with technology for its own sake. Now, in *Building a Bridge to the Eighteenth Century* (Knopf), he makes his case for turning to the Age of Enlightenment for guiding principles. Postman does not idealize the century of Thomas Jefferson—many of the United States' founders owned slaves, he notes—but he does admire the humane rationalism of the age's leading writers. That discussion leads him to plea for educators to emphasize children's critical thinking abilities over their practical skills.



Passages

Won: Six Gemini Awards by the CTV film *Milgaard*, including best TV movie and best direction, in Toronto. **David Milgaard** and his mother, **Joyce**, joined the film's producers onstage to a standing ovation. Other winners included the CBC TV show *Da Vinci's Inquest*, which received the best dramatic series award, and the network's *Made in Canada*, which was awarded best comedy series. Overall, CBC TV won 41 of the 73 categories.



Kevin Fogel/CP

Died: Argentine journalist **Jacobo Timerman**, 76, whose case became a cause for human rights groups after he was imprisoned by Argentine military forces for publishing dissenting editorials, of a heart attack, in Buenos Aires. Timerman was held and tortured from 1977 to 1979. His 1981 book about his experiences, *Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number*, became an international best-seller.

Died: Former Slovenian gymnast **Leon Stukelj**, 100, who won six Olympic medals and was the world's oldest Olympic champion, of heart failure, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. One of his trademark moves on the rings is still known as the Stukelj manoeuvre.

Won: The 1999 world Scrabble championships by Canadian **Joel Wapnick**, 53, in Melbourne, Australia. A music professor at Montreal's McGill University, Wapnick beat Briton **Mark Nyman** for the $22,500 prize.

Awarded: The first $10,000 Dramie-Taylor Biography Prize to **François Ricard**, 52, for his biography of novelist **Gabrielle Roy**, *Gabrielle Roy: A Life*, plus the Marian Engel Award to poet and novelist **Janice Kulyk Keefer**, 47, in Toronto. The $10,000 Marian Engel prize is awarded to a female writer in mid-career for the body of her work.

Appointed: **John Richard**, 65, as chief justice of the Federal Court of Canada, in Ottawa.

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Explorer

Lean, green driving machines

Environmentally friendly cars aren't that far from reality in North America. This year, Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. introduced a concept minivan called the HV-M4. This hybrid four-wheel drive combines a gas engine and two electric motors. When the gas engine is running, it recharges the battery—which has been a problem for electric cars because they need to be plugged in overnight to keep charged. Toyota was the first to mass-produce a hybrid gas and electric eco-car, called Prius, which has been on sale in Japan since 1997, and hits North America next year.



Shared mini-cars in Tokyo, the HV-M4 (left), eco-friendly

The Japanese bought 20,000 Prius vehicles last year alone. The car burns 3.5 litres of regular unleaded gasoline per 100 km, emitting half the carbon dioxide of a conventional car with the same size of engine, and drastically less nitrogen oxide, hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide, gases that contribute to global warming. A 288-volt battery can also be used to power the engine. While the Prius already meets strict current Californian emissions requirements, Toyota plans to refine the car to comply with the state's even tougher standards set to take effect in 2004. New York and Massachusetts—all important car-buying markets—are planning to adopt parts of the same emission criteria.

The tightening of U.S. standards is a trend the other major carmakers can't ignore. Ford Motor Co.'s 2000 models of SUVs, minivans, F-series pickups, and the Focus and Lincoln LS car lines cut in half the smog-forming emissions produced by other automobiles. Ford sank $600 million into research for vehicles powered by fuel cells that use hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity, which other car manufacturers are also pursuing. "People are increasingly concerned with the impact their cars have on the environment," says Blake Smith, director of environment, energy and vehicle safety for Ford Canada.

In the Tokyo area, both Toyota and Nissan have also started testing systems in which drivers share emission-free mini-cars on public roads. Designed for short-range, inner-city driving, the cars are picked up and dropped off at charging stations around the city.

Online mediation

In 1996, two trial lawyers in New York City faced each other on opposite sides of yet another insurance-claim dispute and couldn't come to terms on a settlement amount. Well aware that the average claim drags on for 30 months, the two men devised a blind-bid system. Each wrote down a set of confidential offers, and handed them to a law clerk who was to give the thumbs-up if the figures were within $5,000 of each other. Within minutes, her thumb rose and the claim was settled without costly litigation. The lawyers, James Burchetta and Charles Bronfman, were so happy with the process that they formed a partnership and Cybersettle.com was born in 1996.

This is the world's first online dispute brokering service and it is aimed at international insurers, claimants and corporations who want to settle money matters. To take part, each side types in its blind offers—the parties have three tries to strike a match—and if they come within 30 per cent or $5,000, the case is settled. Defendants, usually the insurers, start the process for a fee of $30. Each side pays $250 if the claim is settled.

So far, 14 corporate clients have signed on, including one of the world's largest insurers, London-based Royal & SunAlliance. Cybersettle ran tests with actual cases for potential customers. (Royal & SunAlliance signed up when the system settled a number of two-year-old cases within days.)

The first Canadian office opened in Toronto last month. And Cybersettle has branched out to Montreal and Vancouver in the past two weeks. Offices in Calgary and Halifax are slated for early next year. "Basically, the parties on each side know how much a claim is worth," says Toronto-based Gary Winston, vice-president of Canadian operations. "What this does is cut out the posturing and allow both parties to get down to business."

Sociable sites on the Internet

TurboShuttle Inc., a Markham, Ont., company, last week launched HomeFreeWeb.com, the first national Canadian service to offer no-charge unlimited Web access and e-mail. The firm's software roams to find the fastest and most efficient local Internet service provider, which means minimized downtime and fewer busy signals.

To become an instant philanthropist and help feed the world, log on to thehungersite.com—a Web site that benefits the United Nations World Food Programme. All a user has to do is click on a button and somewhere around the globe a hungry person gets a free meal—at no cost to the user. The food is paid for by international corporate sponsors whose logos appear on the Web page.

Lost touch with your former schoolmates? Gradfinder.com boasts more than one million members and lists more than 100,000 schools and universities from 60 countries. Once signed up for the free membership, a user can also add contact information, upload a photograph or create photo albums—all for free. The site includes an impressive list of Canadian educational facilities from an elementary school in Grande Prairie, Alta., to a small college in Prince Edward Island.

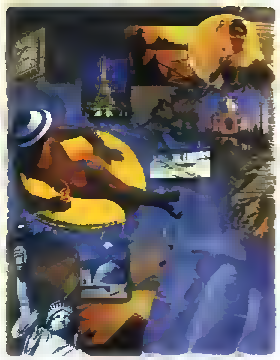
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The Canadian connection

When Canadian actor Christopher Plummer, in the role of veteran *60 Minutes* broadcaster Mike Wallace, turns down the chance to investigate the Mounties' role in the Oka crisis because Canada is too boring, audiences in this country have broken into chuckles. But Wallace's then-producer, Lowell Bergman, who is played by Al Pacino in the hit movie *The Insider*, did not propose that story in real life (and it was the Quebec provincial police who were at Oka). Bergman, however, does have his own strong connection to the Great White North. he told *Maclean's* that he spent early career years teaching at the University of Saskatchewan's Regina campus.



Pacino and Bergman: radical days teaching in Regina preceded the 60 Minutes' *scoop*

Bergman was part of a wave of radical-left American instructors, who came to Canada under a teacher-exchange program. Saskatchewan, with its population of Mennonites, Métis, Doukhobors and Hutterites, intrigued Bergman, and he jokes that he "learned about mukluks and why it is that young men in Canada don't have front teeth." The Prairie winter also left a lasting impression—it was so cold the rubber weather-stripping of the Toyota he bought in California crumbled.

Bergman, now 54 and a producer and reporter at PBS's *Frontline* and a lecturer at the University of California at Berkeley, remembers the lengths to which he would go to engage his Regina sociology students: "A sculptor friend of mine had made an adult-size, white-wood high chair. I delivered a lecture on infantile amnesia sitting in the high chair. I even had a giant [baby] bottle with a little Scotch in it." To discuss deviant behaviour, Bergman invited a local motorcycle gang to class. The gang, which had 18 members and one motorcycle, also came to his house "with a box full of oranges shot up with vodka," he recalls. "One guy got drunk and threw an orange through the window, which was not a good idea when it was 30-below."

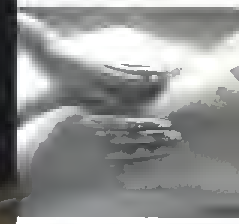
A fellow instructor, Bernie Cohen, remembers that Bergman "exuded a brash self-confidence. Students who had come from small towns, or just off the farm, were astonished at what would come out of these left-wing Americans. The students were either fascinated or repelled." Bergman got his start in journalism at an underground newspaper in San Diego, Calif., then worked for *Rolling Stone* magazine and later ABC News. He started at *60 Minutes* in 1983.

Bergman is quick to remind people that the struggle to get his *60 Minutes* exposé on the tobacco industry to the air differs somewhat from the movie. "Some things are fictionalized, some are dead-on accurate," he says. For instance, Pacino's heroic portrayal is not totally accurate because many people stood behind Bergman in real life. Normally, he says, those who stand up to bosses on principle "don't survive. I just got lucky because a lot of people helped out, and things worked out."

And what does he think of his former employer today? Bergman says *60 Minutes* still compares well against shows that "just want to do blind-man-saved-by-dog or what's the best hair-replacement treatment." But he wishes it was "a little more enterprising, and not so fat and happy."

John Nicol



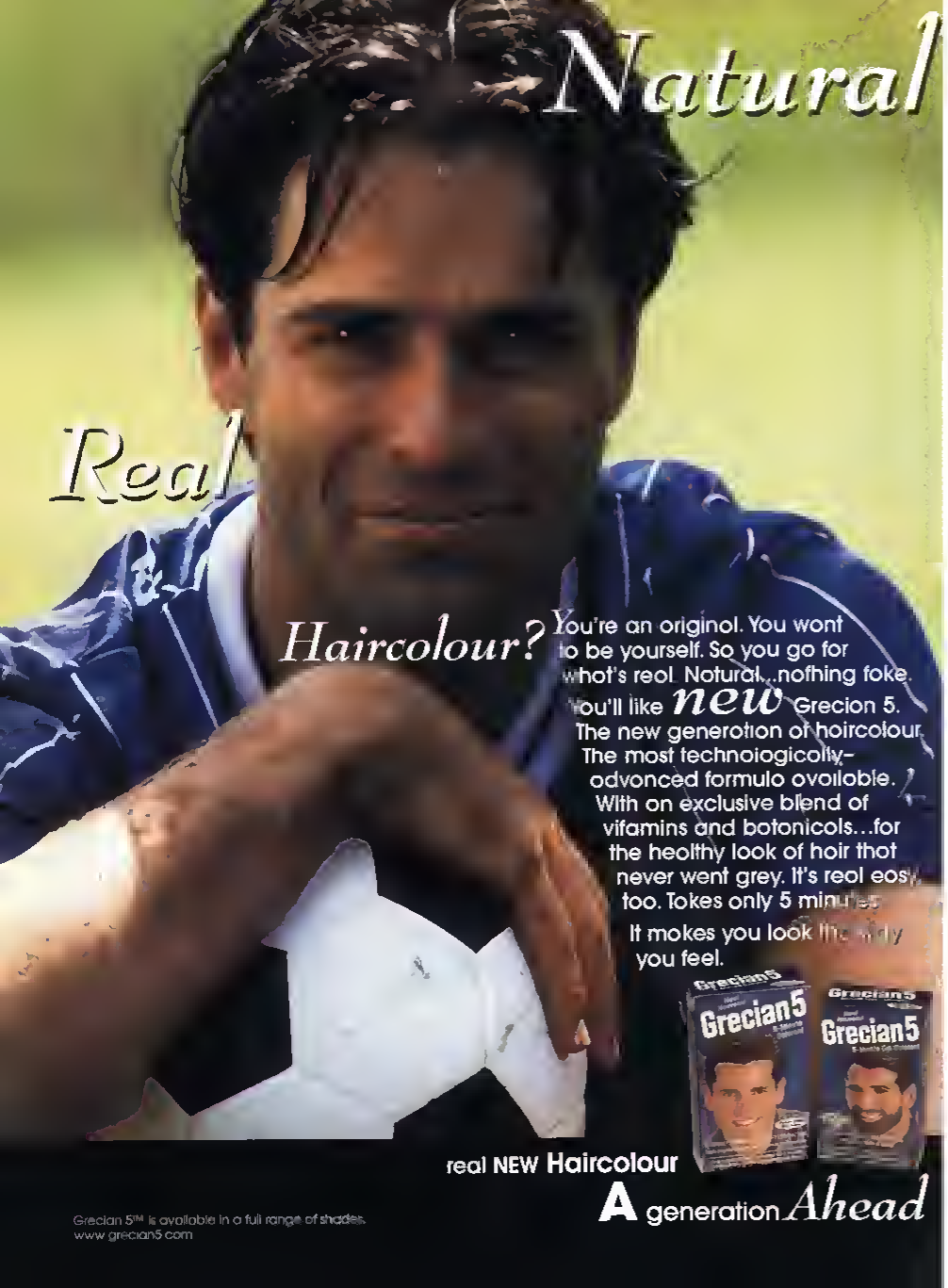


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Barbara Amiel

The Christian war against Israel

The millennium is upon us and peace and goodwill should fill hearts. But not in Nazareth. The Bible says that Roman soldiers mockingly put the initials INRI on the cross of Christ, which stood for Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. There aren't many Romans in Nazareth today, where the population of this northern Israeli city is now two-thirds Muslim.

Tensions between Israel's Christian-Arab population and Muslims are taut. The flash point is last month's decision by the Israelis to allow the Muslims to build a mosque right beside the Basilica of the Annunciation—the largest Catholic shrine in the Middle East. Disputes over developing this area have been bitterly fought for several years. The land for the mosque is state land. It formerly housed a rundown school. The church expected to use the newly cleared area as a piazza in front of the basilica where millions of pilgrims are anticipated to come for the millennium.

The Muslims, led by the rapidly growing Islamic Movement that captured the Nazareth city council in 1998 elections, claim that land as their own on two grounds: that the school was built over the tomb of a nephew of Saladin and that it is holy, or part of the Islamic Waqf (religious endowment). As the dispute wound its way through the courts and bureaucracy, anti-Christian violence erupted. Earlier, Muslims erected and occupied a tent on the disputed land and would not leave until the Israeli government granted the permit on Oct. 13.

That permission triggered a furious reaction from Christians, who predictably decided that the villains were the Israelis. "We will punish them," announced the Roman Catholic patriarch, presumably with a straight face. They proclaimed a strike—all churches and holy sites in Israel will be closed on Nov. 22 and 23. The Vatican followed up by suggesting that the Pope might cancel his trip to the Holy Land scheduled for next March—the first visit ever to Israel by a Pope—and with it the massive tourism anticipated.

If Israel has any blame in this matter, it is that their policy has been both opportunistic and cowardly. The Netanyahu government played up to the Muslims, promising them the mosque and hoping for votes. Building permission by the new Labour government was simply a continuation of this policy to avoid disturbing the peace process. But theocratic Islam cannot be appeased in this manner. Likud failed to get Muslim votes and any policy that demonstrates weakness will never bring peace. As one senior Jordanian government member told me: "There are enough mosques in Nazareth. This request was simply a provocation."

The Christian reaction demonstrates other ignoble aspects. The winds of change may have blown through the church in the West, but they have not yet caressed Christianity, Middle East-style. Dislike of Israel and the Jews is open among Christian patriarchs. As for the Vatican, Pope John Paul II may have fought the Soviet Union and communism, but he was younger then and had many allies. Today, Christians make up only two per cent of the Middle East, and America will not fight for them. Though the adversary of Christianity is Islam, not Judaism, the Pope must think about the welfare of his flock. It will not last long if Islam declares war on it.

Christian-Arabs themselves are a lost tribe. They long to be accepted as Arabs, but are outsiders. Muslim countries regard them as a contradiction in terms—as nonsensical as an Arab Jew. Christian-Arabs have contributed greatly to Middle East culture, but this gets no points. They are still Christians.

The West prefers to believe in two kinds of Islam. One is fundamentalism made up of irrational old mullahs and wild-eyed radicals, the other is just like us. This is nonsense. While privately there are plenty of moderate Islamic adherents, no Islamic leader or theocracy has yet reformed Shari'ah (Islamic law). Around the world, theocratic Islam (as opposed to secular Turkey) is intolerant. For example, Article 340 of the Jordanian Penal Code, largely based on Shari'ah, exempts from penalty any man who kills his wife or any female relative for committing adultery. A recent survey in "moderate" Jordan, where a courageous King Abdullah is trying to amend this, indicated that 62 per cent of the population would object.

In June, a meeting was held in Galilee to effect reconciliation between Christians and Muslims. The vice-chairman of the Islamic Movement of Israel, Sheik Kamal Khatib spoke movingly of "tolerance and friendship and mutual respect." Unfortunately, he also spoke movingly of appropriate treatment of monotheistic non-Muslims. Christians and Jews, for example, would not be forced to become Muslims, but could practise their own religion "protected" by Islam. In return, they would pay a poll tax and accept laws guaranteeing Muslim superiority. The Catholic Archbishop of Galilee wasn't buying and the meeting broke up in fury.

This may be comic-tragic but it speaks volumes on a global problem: the West refuses to understand Islam or indeed most of the currents fuelling the Middle East. The only thing that seems clear is that the Jews are between a rock and a hard place. When Binyamin Netanyahu opened one door of a perfectly legal tunnel near a historic mosque in East Jerusalem, the West condemned him for a provocative act. When his successor, Ehud Barak attempted to appease the Muslims by giving them a building permit for a mosque, the Christians condemn him. For a Jew, it's all achingly familiar.

INVESTIGATIVE ★ REPORT ★

By Tom Fennell
in Akwesasne

RUNNING THE U.S. BORDER WITH A CARGO OF REFUGEES

THE HUMAN SMUGGLERS



Eightball looks across the St. Lawrence from Akwesasne: "It's a good business"

"Eightball" pulls back his long black hair, adjusts his balaclava and peers across the St. Lawrence River through his night-vision binoculars. It's the kind of night the 20-year-old Mohawk smuggler loves, an inky darkness deep enough to shield him from prying eyes as he makes another frantic dash across the churning river. His cargo, four illegal aliens from China, sit hunched in the bottom of the boat, their coats pulled tight against the biting wind. As he nears the American side of the river, he hunts for another smuggler waiting with a van on a narrow road hugging the shore. Finally he spots him, and noses the boat onto a muddy beach. "Out," he yells abruptly at the Chinese. "America? America?" they ask as they scramble into the van for the final leg of their long journey to New York City. "They're terrified," says Eightball. "They don't know where they are."

Eightball, who gets his nickname from his love of playing pool, lets the driver of the van tell his frightened passengers where they are. He has already turned his boat around, and is headed back across the St. Lawrence, which slices through the Akwesasne native reserve, 70 km southwest of Montreal. The reserve is a smuggler's paradise—a 20-hectare maze of islands and hidden inlets spanning the Ontario, Quebec and U.S. borders. As part of a two-month, two-continent investigation of human smuggling from China, *Maclean's* travelled the reserve with Eightball and other traffickers who flout the law on both sides of the border. The global trade in human migrants has become intense and lucrative, as last summer's outpouring of boat people from China to Canada's West Coast dramatized. For many Chinese migrants—and countless others—Canada is simply a way station en route to the final destination, New York City (page 24). Although Canadian authorities are trying to crack down, a common tactic is to declare refugee status in Canada, then slip away to the United States. And to get there, one of the most straightforward places to run the border is sprawling, hard-to-police Akwesasne. "There is a big international operation somewhere across the salt waters," says Mohawk Grand Chief Mike Mitchell. "On their maps, the gangsters put a pin at Akwesasne, and said, 'This is where it's easiest to cross.' "

The pressure on Akwesasne will only mount. The business of smuggling humans around the world earns criminals $10 billion in profits annually. Eightball and his group, who make $1,000 for every adult they sneak across the border, hope the migrants keep coming. "It's a good business," he says. "We want to expand."

The torturous journey to Akwesasne often begins in China's Fujian province, which sits directly across from

Phil Snel /Maclean's

IF YOUNG MOHAWKS DRIVING the refugee boats fear police are in hot pursuit, 'they dump them on shore and take off'

Taiwan The Fujianese have a long history of going abroad to create new lives, and human smuggling—by boat and by plane—is entrenched there Chinese and Canadian officials have pledged to co-operate to try to stop the unlawful exodus, and signs now exhort Fujian villagers to "Resolutely stamp out smuggling and illegal emigration " But locals say they are not deterred "It's dangerous, but worth the risk," says a taxi driver in the provincial capital, Fuzhou. "I still want to go to America. My cousin is there, and you can earn a lot of money."

If he reaches North America, he could find himself in a safe house in Akwesasne, where some native women raise money to feed their families by sheltering the migrants As she sipped a mug of coffee in the kitchen of her home, while a police radio scanner crackled in the background, a Mohawk woman named Madeleine told *Maclean's* she has picked up dozens of illegals near the reserve in her van and hid them overnight While she was frightened at first, she discovered the hungry migrants were also afraid of her "They just want to start a new life," said Madeleine "I'd send out for pizza and they



Mark Dehn/Vancouver Sun

Boat people picked up in B.C last summer: global trade

would start to relax " But she remained vigilant "If the police came," she said, pointing to an open window covered with a purple towel, "they could escape into the woods "

It is not unusual for residents on the reserve to be startled by an early morning knock on the door. Instead of a neighbour dropping by, they are confronted by strangers from half a world away. The visitors are not always from China. In late October, a Mohawk named Angie found two men from Pakistan in light jackets at her door—their only luggage a black briefcase They asked to use the phone to reach their contact who could arrange to move them on to New York, but she refused to let them in

The pair then approached another house before the Akwesasne police finally picked them up and took them to a nearby Canada Customs office. Because the men had not yet entered the United States, and were officially refugees in Canada, they technically had not broken the law and could not be held In such cases, police say the migrants often phone their contact and make arrangements to run the border again

A week before the arrival of the pair at Angie's, five men from Pakistan were also found wandering a marshy stretch of shoreline at Akwesasne "It's a common occurrence," said Akwesasne police Chief Lewis Mitchell. "We just find them walking on the shore We get calls daily." A veteran smuggler on the reserve said such cases usually arise when the young Mohawks driving the boats believe the police are in hot pursuit. "They dump them out on the shore and take off," he said "The illegals are left to fend for themselves."

Normally, he said, the nocturnal run across the river goes much more smoothly It often begins in Montreal or Toronto where local Asian gang members working for a "snakehead," or smuggling organizer, are ordered to move their clients to Cornwall, the industrial city of 49,000 on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence next to the reserve A call is placed to one of the smuggling kingpins at Akwesasne, who dispatches his underlings to pick up the illegals Instead of a dark alley, as might be expected, the refugees are often boldly transferred under the golden arches in the parking lot of a McDonald's restaurant not far from a bridge that links the reserve to the mainland. "I go to the drive-through window and get some food," recounts Eightball, "and then I wait for them to show up "

It takes just seconds to make the switch and only a few more minutes to complete the journey across the bridge to Cornwall Island, which forms the Ontario side of the Akwesasne reserve "Sometimes, we will take them to a safe house," says Eightball, "or leave them in a shack overnight." At best, if the migrants are left with the young smugglers, the only food they will see is a few slices of bread They are much better off with Madeleine "Some people said just give them bread and water," she says with a laugh, "but I like to give them more than that "

At times, the clash of cultures in Madeleine's home left her puzzled. One group of Muslim refugees from Southeast Asia fell on their knees in her kitchen and began praying—in thanks, she suspects, for having safely reached the U S. border Others, after months on the road, have asked to use her shower. To her bewilderment, they are often unable to operate her modern plumbing and give up And although surrounded by neighbouring houses, she says no one ever said anything to authorities when she pulled up in her van and hustled the visitors into her home "People around here don't talk," she says. "They mind their own business."

Madeleine has also glimpsed a more dangerous side of smuggling. On occasion, she has picked up people going the other way—crossing the river from the United States to Canada who she says were well dressed, "wearing lots of gold jewelry," and drove them more than 400 km into downtown Toronto



Perry Paul Pou rn/Niagara

Grand Chief Mitchell: 'the gangsters put a pin at Akwesasne and said: "This is where it's easiest to cross" '

The pressure to move people across the St. Lawrence continues even in the dead of winter. When cars are not available to cross on ice roads, snowmobiles regularly do—with refugees, who are generally used to tropical climes, crouched in high-sided sleighs with little more than their tuques exposed. The smuggling is at its most dangerous just before freeze-up, when the ice is not thick enough to support the weight of a vehicle The smugglers are then forced to go directly through a busy U.S Customs post with the refugees locked in the trunks of their cars "Going through customs is the worst," says Eightball "Your stomach starts to hurt."

Though dangerous, the fruits of running people and contraband across the border seem pervasive on the reserve. Wearing dark sunglasses, his long black hair pulled back under a blue ball cap, Anthony, a longtime smuggler, pointed to the massive homes that dot the reserve They appear more in keeping with upscale suburbs of Vancouver and Toronto than the tidy bungalows of their neighbours. "That's the home of a smuggler," he said, pointing to one of the large houses as he drove along a back road. "He has never had a regular job "Then he slowed near a large green house by the shore. "That belongs to one of the big families behind the smuggling," he said, before quickly driving off

As he did, it became obvious why police have a difficult time plugging the holes in the border. A maze of roads leads out of both the Quebec and U S sides of the reserve and the only markers to indicate the border are a few concrete pillars. A refugee struggling ashore in someone's backyard may be in Quebec, but by the time he reaches the road in front of the house, he could be in the United States Anthony headed up one of the roads used as an escape route by the smugglers, past a sign ordering vehicles to report to a U S Customs office several kilometres away. The sign only drew a laugh from Anthony "We just ignore it," he said, and Eightball has also ferried similar passengers to the Canadian side. "They had thousands of dollars wrapped in plastic," he recalls. "You could see the ends of the bills sticking out "

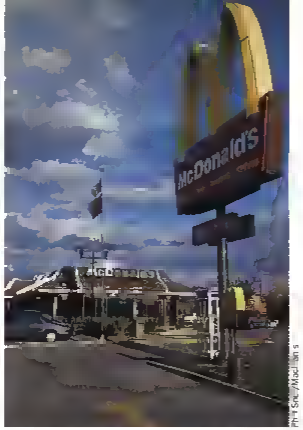
Asian crime specialists believe the Canadian-bound passengers are part of a troubling new phenomenon As the populations of illegal migrants increase in New York and Toronto, officials say, a growing number of migrants become involved in organized crime, including prostitution and drug dealing. Both criminals and the proceeds from drug dealing and smuggling have to be moved between the two cities. Akwesasne is a convenient gateway. "Smuggling and the crime associated with it has become a monster," says a police expert on the subject, "with tentacles reaching around the world. It is going to change the nature of Toronto "

A police headache

A large wooden sign at the entrance of the U.S side of the Akwesasne Indian reserve warns the FBI and New York state police to stay off Indian land. But it has had little effect. Canadian and U.S. laws apply in their respective parts of the reserve, which straddles the St. Lawrence River. To combat smuggling, now a multimillion-dollar industry in the enclave, police cross onto Indian land and their presence on both sides of the border continues to grow On the Canadian side, there are more than 45 members of the RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police and Customs Canada. On the American side, a beefed-up detachment of the U.S. Border Patrol is supported by local and state police. The reserve itself also runs a 22-member force that covers both countries. Mohawk Grand Chief Mike Mitchell has long argued that the natives should be allowed greater power to combat lawbreakers "You have a whole army of anti-smuggling police tripping over themselves," says Mitchell. "It has not worked."



'EIGHTBALL' HAS FERRIED PEOPLE to Canada, too. 'They had thousands of dollars wrapped in plastic.'



McDonald's in Cornwall where refugee transfers are made: it takes just seconds

headed down another back road into the reserve.

The nine-hour run from the reserve to New York has also drawn Eightball's attention. He can make $1,000 driving a carload of refugees into the city, and he wants to buy his aunt's old Lincoln Continental. He plans to take out the back seat and cut out the wall behind it, leaving an open space from the driver's seat to the back of the trunk. "He would be able to carry six people lying head to toe," said his aunt as she showed off the car. "Yeah," agreed Eightball, "the Chinese are not very big people."

Money, and tales of money, keep the young smugglers coming back to the shoreline. Eightball has seen briefcases left behind in boats with thousands of dollars in them. Other refugees are robbed and then abandoned. At times, it seems everyone on the reserve has a story to tell of a friend who has seen thousands of dollars piled on a kitchen table, as the proceeds from smuggling are carved up. And even if the smugglers are caught, the money follows them to prison. "They send 'can money' when someone goes to jail," explained Eightball, "so when they get out they will drive the boats again."

Grand Chief Mitchell lays the smuggling problem squarely at Ottawa's feet. Since the mid-1980s, he says, he has tried unsuccessfully to convince federal officials to let the Mohawks pass their own laws to contain the smuggling and operate a native border patrol. The illicit traffic began with cigarettes, which was seen as a victimless crime. Since then, police say, the smuggling of drugs such as cocaine, and even weapons, has become a multimillion-dollar business on the reserve. Mitchell met with newly appointed Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault to discuss the situation on Nov. 4 at Akwesasne, and the two agreed to meet again. Without Ottawa's help, Mitchell says, it will be impossible to stem the flow of illegals and other contraband.

Smuggling at Akwesasne has become so widespread that attempts to control it have tied down dozens of police officers on both sides of the border. "We can barely keep our heads above water at Akwesasne," says RCMP Sgt. Bill MacDonald, an immigration specialist based in Ottawa. In December, 1998, Operation over the Rainbow, a combined Canada-U.S. task force, arrested and charged 35 people in Toronto, Cornwall and New York with smuggling illegals. The case, which has yet to go to court, revealed the extent of the problem. Authorities believe the group may have earned as much as $250 million smuggling 3,600 people across the border in just two years. Even though successful, the bust has barely slowed the flow of illegals.

Dick Ashlaw, the agent in charge at the U.S. Border Patrol detachment on the American side of the reserve, says the only solution is to deploy more resources. But because American immigration authorities are preoccupied by the nearly one million illegals crossing the Mexican border each year, Akwesasne is not a top priority.

Officials with the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Washington believe that as long as the illegal Chinese migrants seek a future in New York, more will come through Akwesasne as an ever-increasing amount of money is sent home to pay the smugglers' fees. Ken Elwood, an INS field-operations official, says Chinese organized-crime groups are even bringing in migrants to meet demands from Chinese employers. "When Chinese factory or restaurant owners need labour," says Elwood, "they go to a snakehead in New York, who goes back to Fujian and recruits people."

Toronto Senator William Kelly, who chaired a Senate committee hearing into illegal immigration, also believes the number of migrants will increase. Canada's treatment of refugees stems from the 1951 United Nations' convention, a noble document that sought to shelter people suffering from political persecution. But Kelly claims the convention has been distorted by criminals. "We have a very leaky refugee system," says Kelly. "We don't have sufficient people at the borders to deal with this problem."

Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan is putting her faith in Canada's new policy—instituted after the boat people began arriving—of jailing suspicious refugee claimants until their hearings are held. "We have always presumed refugees intend to become citizens," the minister told *Maclean's*. "That's not what is happening. The number of people going underground into the clutches of organized crime is most troubling." By detaining migrants, she says, Canada will persuade the smugglers that the country is no longer wide open. "We don't know what the future holds," she says. "But we must send the strongest possible message to smugglers that they will not succeed."

People close to the Fujian community in Canada maintain that the plan is doomed to fail. Derek Chen, a Vancouver pharmacist and founder of Vancouver's Fujian Society, says the snakeheads have local agents all over Vancouver and they will keep bringing people in. "I don't know when the Canadian government will realize that the problem is so intense," says Chen. "The resources for receiving and detaining migrants in British Columbia have been used up already. What will it be like when it gets to 6,000 or 7,000 refugees in detention?" But if the new system does not slow the flow of migrants to Akwesasne, Eightball and his partners will be waiting on the shoreline.

With Andrew Phillips in New York City, Chris Wood in Vancouver and Paul Mooney in Fuzhou

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TERROR AND HARDSHIP

IN SEARCH OF WEALTH, CHINESE MIGRANTS RISK their lives to be smuggled to North America

By Tom Fennell

Every year, nearly 100,000 Chinese who desperately want to build better lives are believed to be smuggled to the West. Yet, instead of wealth, most will find only hardship and years of indentured labour. For many migrants, the route begins in China's Fujian province and ends at the most common destination, New York City—with a brief stop on Canadian soil. Maclean's correspondents traced that route and talked to people who had completed the long, often terrifying, trek. Their report:





Phil Snel /Aberdeen's

A Fujian migrant in his rented cubicle in New York; Tantou village (opposite), facing years of servitude

FUJIAN: Ready to go

Liu Jinqi and the young Chinese salesmen chatting in the busy clothing shop have just one thing on their minds: going to America. Hundreds of thousands of their compatriots have already made the journey, and Liu, 25, tells *Maclean's* a local *shetou*, or snakehead, has agreed to smuggle him abroad. He has given the snakehead a down payment, but will still have to come up with the full $75,000—more than he could ever hope to make on his salary of $195 a month. "I will pay the rest after I get a job in America," he says confidently. "I really want to go." His fellow salesmen in the Fujian town of Jinfeng also talk anxiously about striking out on the perilous trip, which could take them deep into jungles, across oceans and through several countries. They will put up with any hardship to reach their all-consuming goal. "*Zhuan qian*," they say. "To make money."

If he leaves by ship, Liu will start by boarding a boat for the island of Pingtan, directly across from Taiwan on the Fujian coast. A day or two later, he will climb into another small boat and head out to an aging, usually decrepit oceangoing vessel waiting in international waters. It will finally take him across the roiling Pacific to North America's west coast.

For a few thousand dollars more, hundreds of other Fujianese have purchased fake passports and flown directly to airports in Canada and the United States, where they declare refugee status. Many others have taken a more circuitous route—often travelling to Southeast Asia, then to Latin America or Europe before reaching those same North American airports. So many have made the trip that almost 400,000 Fujianese now live in New York City alone. A prostitute, sitting in a dingy hotel bar in the Fujian capital of Fuzhou, says she too wants to escape, and is undeterred by the possibility of being raped, beaten and tobbed along the toute. "A friend of mine had a horrendous experience," she says. "He almost starved on the boat, and when he couldn't pay the snakeheads, he was kidnapped and held until his family came up with the money."

Many Fujianese towns have been dubbed "widows' villages," because all the young men have gone. The money the migrants send back to their families has created a stark difference between those with relatives abroad and those without. Sprinkled among the traditional houses are five- and six-storey mansions. The homes, some costing as much as $300,000, are garishly decorated with ornate chandeliers and spiral staircases.

Signs of wealth are everywhere. A marble plaque on the wall of an old shop in one community is dedicated to a local man living in America who paid for the village's concrete sidewalks and town square. A cornerstone at a senior citizens' centre in the same community proclaims that it was paid for by another villager living abroad. "There's really no need to work," explains a woman as she plays mah-jongg with a group of friends in front of her house. "Most of the people here live off money sent back home by relatives."

Beijing has cracked down with more security patrols in the region, and the increased risk has allowed the snakeheads to charge as much as $90,000, nearly double the fee six years ago. A boat with 150 people on board can bring in gross revenue of $11 million to $13.5 million for the smugglers. "The money to be earned here is so little," sighs the wife of a shoemaker in the small town of Tantou, "while the money in America is so much." But money is not always the only motivator.

FROM CHINA TO CANADA: One woman's journey

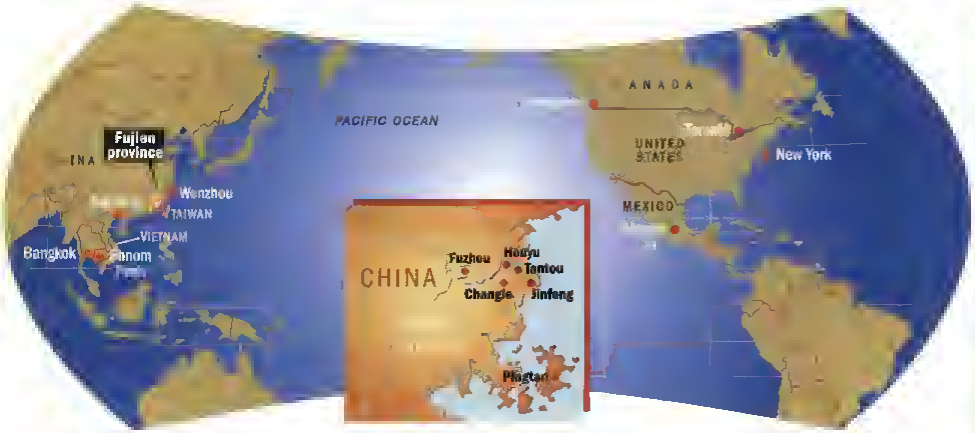
Just north of Fujian is the province of Zhejiang. There, in the village of Wenzhou in September, 1998, Lijuan Hu decided to throw her lot in with the smugglers. She was just 18. In addition to watching dozens of others depart in the hope of building a better life in the West, Hu told *Maclean's* she had another reason for leaving her village. She had received a letter from a family planning office, the agency that enforces China's policy of limiting families to one child. She says her father had been forcibly sterilized by doctors following the birth of her mother's second child. Fearing for their older daughter's safety, they arranged for her to leave China for a price of $75,000. More than four months would go by before they would hear from their daughter again. When they did, the tearful phone call came from an Ontario jail.

Hu's journey began when the snakehead ordered her to travel by train to the southern city of Nanning in Guangxi province. She then took a bus about 170 km to a small town near the border of Vietnam. That night, a man on a motorcycle arrived, and under cover of darkness they followed a gravel trail deep into Vietnam towards the coast of the South China Sea. As she bounced along on the back of the motorcycle, Hu suddenly longed for her home. "I missed my parents," she recalls. "I didn't know if anyone would tell them if I died on my way."

Once at the coast, she was held for days in a safe house. "I couldn't even cry out loud," says Hu. "I wept to myself in the small room." Finally, she was ordered into a boat along with three other migrants from China. They were taken to a battered fishing trawler and headed down the coast of Vietnam towards Cambodia and Thailand. "The wind came up and the waves got higher and higher," she recalls. "I slipped and almost fell into the sea, but one of the guys grabbed me and saved my life."

The smugglers refused to tell Hu where she was being taken. Experts who have studied the routes used by smugglers say she likely reached the coast of Cambodia or Thailand and was moved to either Phnom Penh or Bangkok. At one point, she crouched by the side of a railway track and waited for a train. As it slowed, she jumped aboard. "I saw people jump on trains in the movies," Hu says, "but I never thought I would try it in real life."

Phnom Penh and Bangkok are major snakehead staging areas, where officials are easily bribed into providing the migrants with fake documents. They are then flown to cities in Mexico, Central America or Europe before being retouted to the United States or Canada. Hu's destination was Amsterdam, where she was given a fake passport and visa. She boarded a flight for Canada and arrived at Montreal's Dorval



CROSSING THE WORLD: CHINESE MIGRANTS OFTEN START OUT FROM FUJIAN'S VILLAGES

airport, where, as instructed, she declared refugee status. She called a telephone number that she had been given and her handlers quickly picked her up.

Once again, she found herself in a safe house, this time in one of Toronto's Chinese districts, where she was held for almost two weeks. Finally, she was sent to the U.S. border near Buffalo, N.Y., in a large delivery truck with three other female refugees. As the driver neared customs last January, with the temperature at about -19° C, he ordered the four women into a wooden box bolted to the bottom of the truck. They had almost made it through when they were arrested by a customs officer who noticed Hu's hair dangling from the container. After 4 ½ months on the road, a suddenly relieved Hu phoned her parents. "They asked me why I was crying," says Hu, who is now working in a restaurant as she awaits her refugee hearing in Toronto. "I told them I was just happy that I was finally free in Canada."

VANCOUVER: Landing by air and sea

Three thousand kilometres to the west, Colin Downton of the Vancouver Police Department's Asian gang squad has heard dozens of stories like Hu's. The walls facing his desk in a squat building on the Vancouver waterfront are covered in Polaroid mug shots of known members of groups like the Big Circle Boys—an Asian gang heavily involved in people smuggling.

Most migrants, just prior to landing at Vancouver International Airport, flush their false documents down the toilet of their airliner. Once in the airport, the migrants declare refugee status and are usually released pending a hearing. Enforcers representing the snakehead often pick them up and take them to a safe house. Downton says the snakeheads have been known to keep them captive for days as they try to extort even more money from their relatives back in China. In one case, he said, they put a woman on the phone and tortured her while her family back in China listened.

Eric Legare/Maclean's

While the arrival of migrants at Vancouver International is largely anonymous, mass arrivals at sea off Vancouver Island have triggered public outrage. Victoria RCMP Cpl. Ray Legare says there is evidence that Chinese illegals have been landing on Vancouver Island as far back as 1997. Those fears were confirmed in July, 1998, when the Philippine-registered vessel Sun Lion was seized off the west coast of Vancouver Island with a Filipino crew aboard but no migrants. Legare says the illegals were off-loaded onto a beach near a road in the vicinity of the remote northern Vancouver Island community of Winter Harbour. After a short hike, they were loaded onto vehicles and driven to a ferry for the trip to the mainland. The RCMP believes the migrants may have been helped by area residents or fishermen. "We've heard they are paid $1,000 a body to assist with an off-load," says Legare. "There are a lot of people who will get involved." But the newcomers' stay in British Columbia is often short.

TORONTO: The clearinghouse

Within weeks of the Sun Lion's arrival, many of the migrants who had been on board the ship began to show up in Toronto. Police believe that, like many of the refugees who landed in Vancouver, they had been moved across the country in vans and cars. Once in the city, they were kept in safe houses until they were cleared to run the border near Buffalo or through the Akwesasne Indian reserve, which straddles the Ontario, Quebec and U.S. borders 70 km southwest of Montreal.

While the arrival of migrants in Toronto from ships like

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IN B.C., POLICE SAY REFUGEE BOATS may get local help



Andrew Phillips/Maclean's

Li in Manhattan's Chinatown. 'the No 1 TV show in China is Baywatch, *and they think it's going to be like that'*

the Sun Lion is striking, hundreds of other refugees show up at Pearson International Airport. A Chinese woman named Hong, a doctor of traditional Chinese medicine, told *Maclean's* she said goodbye to her husband and eight-year-old child last May at Hongqiao International Airport in Shanghai. She then flew to Europe and switched planes in Germany and Holland, before finally arriving at Pearson four days later.

Hong says her worst moments came at immigration in Amsterdam when police checked her documents. Once through, she, like hundreds of migrants before her, made sure there was no evidence of her use of illegal papers. "I destroyed all document cards," said Hong, who is now living on welfare in Toronto, "before I got off the plane in Canada." Increasingly, some Chinese refugee claimants are opting to stay in Toronto, which has a growing Fujianese contingent among the city's more than 400,000-strong Chinese-descended community. But many more head south.

NEW YORK CITY: Dark end of the rainbow

The Fujianese who finally reach their destination face years of subsistence work as they attempt to pay off the smugglers. Their days often begin on the dirty sidewalk of Forsyth Street in New York's Chinatown. As cars and subway trains rumble overhead along the Manhattan Bridge, men from Fujian loiter outside a dozen storefront employment agencies, waiting to be called inside for jobs at restaurants or garment factories. The pay is poor, no more than $250 (U.S.) a week, and the hours are long—usually 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week. But the men on Forsyth Street have few choices. "Back in China, they're told that coming to the United States is like coming to paradise," says Sara Mak-Lee, a social worker with St. Vincent's Hospital in the heart of Chinatown. "Of course it isn't true, but they have to make the best of it."

The Fujianese, who are isolated from the mainstream by language and their illegal status, have their own section of Chinatown centred on a six-block stretch of East Broadway known locally as "Fuzhou Street." People living in the area from other parts of China blame the Fujianese for rising crime and falling wages. And they mock them for the way they dress and talk, and for some of their customs — such as the practice of men holding hands as they walk down the street.

Primarily single men, they provide ready customers for dozens of gambling parlors and thinly disguised houses of prostitution. Ming Li, a New York police detective who has worked out of Chinatown's Fifth Precinct for 15 years, points to a bright-red banner that announces a supposed Chinese community association. In reality, he says, it is a storefront gambling operation and massage parlour, catering to the lonely. "It's tough," says Li. "The No. 1 TV show in China is *Baywatch*, and they think it's going to be like that."

Living conditions, too, are harsh for the Fujianese huddled together in Chinatown. For about 200 single men, home is a converted warehouse on Bowery Street, up three long flights of stairs. Inside, tiny cubicles have been built. Each contains three or four wooden bunks, enough to sleep half a dozen men in shifts. The narrow corridors are hung with laundered T-shirts and underwear; along the walls, men cook over hot plates. Rent for such accommodation runs about $200 (U.S.) a month. A man who identified himself only as Ziang said he had lived in his cubicle for three years, sending most of what he earns back to relatives in Fujian.

Families fare little better. Many men are sent to jobs up and down the U.S. East Coast, separating them from wives and children for weeks at a time. Most of the women work in non-union garment factories in Chinatown and often find it difficult to keep their families together. Mak-Lee sees scores of pregnant women at her hospital's clinic. A third, she says, tell her they plan to send their babies back home. The practice is so established that operators charge a standard $1,000 (U.S.) fee for the service. The problem, says Mak-Lee, comes when the children are returned to their parents around age 5. "They come back to New York speaking only Fujianese, and they haven't bonded with their parents. They have a lot of behavioural problems."

Still, the migrants keep coming—a steady influx of up to 300 every day to Chinatown. "No matter how bad it is here," says Det. Li, "there are always more people back in China ready to take the trip."

With Andrew Phillips in New York, Sheng Xue in Toronto, Chris Wood in Vancouver and Paul Mooney in Fujian



PATROLLING 'LITTLE KOREA'

ILLEGALS FROM ALL OVER JUMP the U.S. border in southern B.C.

By Chris Wood in Sumas



A U.S. and an RCMP officer (right) meet at border 'soft spot'

They call it "Little Korea." Not for the local inhabitants—most are either Dutch Reform or Sikh farmers. The open stretch of farmland at the foot of Sumas Mountain, south of Chilliwack, B.C., got its name because that is where the U.S. Border Patrol first noticed a surge in South Koreans attempting to slip illegally into the United States.

The border here is marked in places by nothing more significant than the clean edge where a green Canadian meadow ends and a culled-over U.S. cornfield begins. Less than 200 m south on the U.S. side, the two-lane pavement of Washington state's Jones Road parallels the border. On one night, human smugglers escorted a group of 16 Koreans south from Old Yale Road in Canada to the meadow border. From there, the illegals sprinted in small groups across the cornfield, and into thick reeds next to Jones Road. As border patrol agents watched from about two kilometres away through a night-vision telescope, several cars in succession pulled off the road into the entrance to the field. When each car arrived, four illegals swarmed out of the reeds and into the vehicle, pulling the doors closed as it sped off into the night. The transfers into the cars took an average of six seconds (the agents would learn later that the smugglers—"coyotes" in border patrol lingo—had coached the migrants on which door to go for and made them rehearse the manoeuvre).

These people-smugglers were unlucky. All four carloads of migrants were intercepted within minutes, thanks to a fortuitously timed border patrol stakeout. Three smugglers escaped back into Canada. But agents say the operation was typical of many that escort Asians and, increasingly, Mexicans covertly into the United States through Canada's western border. In many cases, the border patrol contends, the migrants enter Canada perfectly legally as tourist or business travellers and do not claim refugee status (travellers from South Korea, Mexico and Hong Kong can enter Canada without a visa). But they waste no time sightseeing. The Koreans had landed at Vancouver airport the day before they were arrested.

The 50 km of farms and woodland between the Georgia Strait at International Peace Arch Park and Sumas Mountain offer many tempting corridors like Little Korea. At several points in the flatland west of the mountain, Canada's Zero Avenue and America's Boundary Road run side by side, separated by nothing more than a ditch less than four metres wide. Such soft spots are known to other professional smugglers as well. Authorities on both sides often mount co-ordinated operations to stop B.C.-grown marijuana going south, cocaine, guns, liquor, tobacco and fireworks moving north, and money travelling both ways.

But the people trade is steady. The numbers caught have hovered around 2,000 a year for the past five years. There has been a steady increase of those coming from China: 42 in 1994, 78 last year. Eugene Davis, U.S. Border Patrol deputy agent in charge in Blaine, Wash., whose unit is responsible for the area, says his people can tell when there has been a setback for the smuggling route from the People's Republic of China to New York City via Ontario's cross-border Akwesasne native reserve. "The problem in Akwesasne starts in Vancouver," he says. "Every time they make an arrest at Akwesasne, we get a huge spike in traffic in P.R.C.s."

Even so, the largest ethnic group crossing the border illegally now is Mexican. Some are gangsters trying to find a softer way into the United States. But others are economic refugees who often arrive on a Japan Airlines direct flight from Mexico City to Vancouver. Agents have been told the going rate to be taken to Canada and smuggled into Washington state is $2,200 to $2,700—not much more than the price of crossing the more hazardous southern border and being transported to Los Angeles. And highly efficient, notes Davis. "Once they get off the plane, you're talking six hours and they're down the road—it's a smugglers' paradise." MM

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SEEKING FREEDOM

TWO MIGRANTS HELD IN CUSTODY make emotional pleas to stay in Canada

By Chris Wood



Chuck Stoody/CP Archive

Chinese boat people brought ashore in Port Hardy, B.C., in August, a hunger strike protesting a long detention

The slender, pretty woman has been crying. That is not so unusual here. Tucked away on the Fraser River floodplain next door to the municipal incinerator, the Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women is a prison, home usually to about 100 inmates: lifers, minor miscreants doing short time and others awaiting trial. But for more than two months, it has also housed 48 Chinese migrants detained last summer after the rusting ships on which they crossed the Pacific landed on Canada's West Coast. The frightened-looking woman in the grey BCCW sweatshirt is one of them. Assured of anonymity, she has agreed to meet *Maclean's* to explain through an interpreter why she and the other migrant women here have refused all solid food since Nov. 6—a hunger strike that within days spread to Chinese detained in several other B.C. facilities. The reason is not complex: "We have been here for so long. We want to be released into society."

Already, the thirtysomething woman from Fujian province has spent longer in a Canadian prison than she did on the terrifying voyage that brought her here. She says she began her trip in the city of Fuzhou on June 12, travelling first by bus to the port of Wenzhou. There a "snakehead" organizer escorted her and some other migrants on board a rusting ship, where they were joined by several groups that boarded the vessel over two days. As the creaking ship left Wenzhou, she says she and her fellow migrants expected a trip of about two to three weeks. Instead, the voyage lasted 58 agonizing days. "The women were vomiting all the time, dizzy and sick," she says, gesturing with her arms to indicate how the boat rocked. There was not enough water, and only rice and pickled vegetables to eat. During storms, the ancient hull groaned so loudly she feared the ship might break apart. "We were so scared," she admits, "we began to regret it. It was very dangerous and took far longer than they said."

But now that she is here, she thinks it is also taking Canadian authorities far too long to set her free. Of the 599 people who came ashore from four vessels intercepted last summer, 422 remain in custody in various B.C. jails. In hearings at which federal officials must justify each migrant's detention, the government has relied heavily on two arguments.

One is flight risk: of 73 people released on refugee claims from the first boat, 64 have, in officialese, "abandoned their claims." In fact, almost all have vanished and are believed to have resumed their onward voyage to the United States in the hands of snakeheads. Detention may forestall more vanishings, but at a cost to the taxpayer. To the end of October, immigration officials said their agency faced about $3 million in unplanned expenses. In addition, B.C. Corrections is billing Ottawa nearly $700,000 a week for the care and feeding of the detainees. Another argument for detention has been the risk that gangsters might coerce freed migrants into crime, putting the women into prostitution as one example, in order to begin working off their travel debt.

The red-eyed woman in the tiny interview room shakes her head earnestly. She owes the snakeheads $34,000, she says, and agrees that it is "reasonable" for authorities to worry that some detainees might flee. "We have heard that many people from the first boat went underground," she says. "But it doesn't mean we will go underground. For myself, I want to stay in Canada and find a job, a proper job, in a restaurant or maintenance. Not prostitution. If the snakeheads come, I will be very firm. I want to stay in Canada."

Her chance to do so will come, as it has for nearly 50 migrants already, in an eerily similar room—right down to the institutional beige of the walls—13 km away in downtown Vancouver. Deliberations of the Immigration and Refugee Board, on the 18th floor of an office tower adjacent to Vancouver's faux-Roman main library, are customarily closed to the public. But five days before the start of the hunger strike, on application by *Maclean's*, the board made an exception in the case of another Fujianese migrant woman (the board banned publication of her name). Escorted by a female commissionaire, she arrived in a bright yellow T-shirt under what looked like green hospital scrubs, and handcuffs.

The cuffs came off when the woman took a seat beside her lawyer. To her right sat an interpreter. Facing him on her other side was hearing officer Tony Pascuzzi, whose job requires him to present the claimant's file without seeking either rejection or acceptance. That is up to the board. On that day, the panel comprised Stephen Beckow, a big, tweedy guy who was an administrator at Hughes Aircraft in suburban Richmond before joining the board last year, and Léon Graub, a French teacher from Montreal and one of several board members from Quebec drafted to help deal with the flood of B.C. claims.

Lawyer Timothy Xia presented the woman's claim. Noting that she has a nine-year-old daughter in China (by a man from whom she is divorced), he argued that she is a victim of persecution under her country's one-child policy. Through the translator, the 32-year-old mother described the intrusive pelvic examination she was obliged to undergo quarterly to assure officials she had neither become pregnant nor removed her state-mandated IUD. The Canadian courts, however, have already ruled that the practice does not constitute grounds for refugee status. They take the same view of another of her arguments: that having left China illegally, she now faced a possible prison term on her return.

Xia asked the woman to explain in her own words why she undertook the risky voyage across the Pacific. "I heard Canada is a democratic country and has human rights," she answered, then added: "And it's easier to look for a job. I want to give my child a better life. I hope to have a better life. So I took a boat and came to Canada." But, as Pascuzzi reminded the board members, desire for a better life is not grounds for refugee status either.

At the end of the two-hour examination, Graub and Beckow conferred briefly before returning with a verdict. Acknowledging that the woman's prospects were "sad" and "regrettable," Graub nonetheless ruled: "We have a duty to apply the [UN] convention to people who are considered to be refugees because of persecution and we find it is not the case today. So we do not recognize you as a refugee."

"Madam," the courtly French teacher added, "I can tell you the panel feels no joy in rendering such a judgment. We can only wish you luck." Before the handcuffs are slipped onto her wrists again for the trip back to detention in Burnaby, the woman in green is permitted to wipe away the tears she could not control. She has 15 days to file an appeal. m

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The Tragedy of Andrew Rich

A teen suicide underscores the despair among the Innu of Labrador and northern Quebec

By John DeMont in Sheshatshiu

Upstairs, the house overflows with mourners But the spacious basement is quiet as Jean-Pierre Ashini rolls a cue back and forth across the green felt top of the pool table and remembers the last time he saw his son, Andrew Rich Ashini, known as Napess throughout the Innu community of Sheshatshiu in Labrador, is a composed, dignified man who has always tried to set an example for his five children. Only around his dark eyes does the sadness, anger and fatigue show as he recalls how Andrew accompanied him to the airport in nearby Goose Bay on Nov 5.



Ted Dis Smyth

Ashini, 39, was leaving for London to address a high-profile news conference about the suicide epidemic among Canada's Innu. He wanted to be present when Survival for Tribal Peoples, a charity that works with indigenous people around the world, issued its report comparing the plight of his people to the lot of Tibetans oppressed by China. But he worried about his son, a shy 15-year-old who went by the nickname of "Mr T." Andrew spoke little English and had always seemed most comfortable camping and hunting in Nitassinan, the name the Innu gave to their homeland in the Labrador wilderness

But in Sheshatshiu, 32 km north of Goose Bay, he had, like so many Innu youths, fallen into despair

He drank, did drugs and inhaled gasoline fumes when nothing else was available to dull the pain of his life Sometimes, he talked about suicide Preparing to board the plane, Ashini, a teetotalling shrimp fisherman, urged his son to stay clean and behave himself while he was away. Once on the plane, he recalls, "I mouthed the words 'don't drink' through the glass of the window I saw him nod yes, and I felt good when I left."

But 45 minutes after landing in London, Ashini received news from home that shattered his world Sometime in the early-morning hours of Nov. 6, Andrew had swallowed a vial of pills He then walked into his bedroom and shot himself in the head while his 13-year-old girlfriend sat a few rooms away—the third youth in the past year to commit suicide in the community of 1,500

The Innu of Sheshatshiu are mainly Roman Catholics, with an abiding faith in a hereafter But there was little comfort to be found when they arrived in the gym at the settlement's only school last week. Incense wafted towards the ceiling as a pair of white clerics, one of them wearing robes made from animal hide, administered communion A row of female elders chanted Christian hymns in the Innu language Yet all the ritual in the world could not silence the sobbing among the disconsolate men, women and children who poured into the room And it could not bring back Juliana Rich, a two-year-old who had accidentally suffocated in her sleep and now lay in an open white coffin, or her cousin Andrew, whose remains rested inside a closed blue casket adorned with flowers



Andrew Rich; last week's funeral service in Sheshatshiu (left)· isolated communities shattered by alcohol, drugs and widespread sexual abuse and domestic violence

True to his nature, Andrew had told no one of his plans Before his suicide, he had secretly slipped a farewell letter—"I love you. I miss you Goodbye, Andrew Rich"—into the pocket of his best friend, who did not find the note until afterwards Andrew's death gave flesh-and-blood reality to the alarming message in the Survival report focusing on one community, it said that the Innu of Davis Inlet, 200 km north of Sheshatshiu, had the highest suicide rate in the world—178 per 100,000 people Titled *Canada's Tibet: the killing of the Innu*, the report put the country in an unsavory spotlight by blaming the problem on Canadian government resettlement policies that, among other things, deprived the Innu of their nomadic lifestyle. And it drew a testy response from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, himself a former Indian affairs minister, who said during his African tour that Canada has been generous with its aboriginal peoples.

But there is no denying the depth of the

'This is a wounded community, a nightmare place where no one seems to have any hope'



Ashini; cemetery in Sheshatshiu (below): the prospect of a future without change is too much for some to bear

tragedy, the magnitude of which became widely known to Canadians in 1993 when six gasoline-sniffing children in Davis Inlet were pulled from an unheated shack on a frigid night, screaming that they wanted to die. Both communities are pockets of almost unimaginable grimness—where a people who roamed the Labrador barrens for thousands of years now suffer from rampant drug abuse, alcoholism, sexual abuse and domestic violence. "This is a wounded community," points out Lynne Gregory, a longtime addictions counsellor in Sheshatshiu. "A nightmare place where no one seems to have any hope."

With snowcapped mountains in the distance, Sheshatshiu, which sits on the edge of clear lake, seems hardly different from so many rural Canadian settlements. The bungalows—built with government money—generally look tidy and new. In the afternoon sunlight, shiny trucks drive along the roads, avoiding laughing kids playing road hockey. But there is nothing normal about a community where, according to a government report, some 40 per cent of youths wander the frozen nights looking for unlocked gas tanks from which they can siphon gas into a plastic bag and get high inhaling the fumes. Or a place where it is hard to encounter anyone—adult or youth—who does not claim to have been physically or sexually abused, either by a family member, neighbour, priest or teacher.



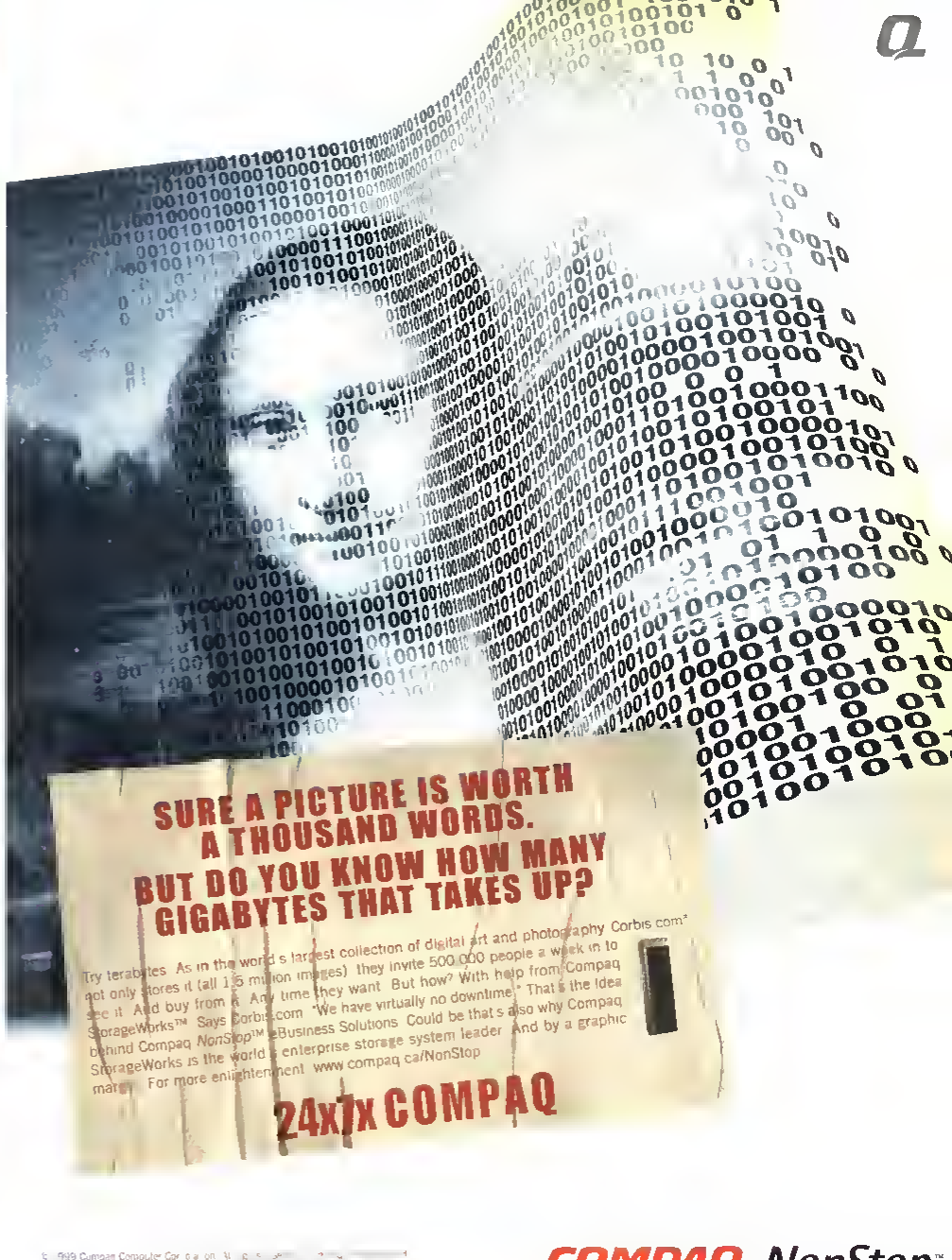
Photograph by Ted Grant/Peter Arnold, Inc.

Sheshatshiu seems to careen from tragedy to tragedy: last week, even as the village buried its latest suicide, support workers and Innu leaders had to deal with rumours that young people there and in Davis Inlet had signed a pact to commit suicide with the advent of the new millennium. And there were also concerns that the Nov. 16 election of officers for the Innu Nation, the political body based in Sheshatshiu, could lead to more violence and death as a result of free liquor traditionally distributed as ballot-box bribes.

Death *does* seem to lurk everywhere. In the small church cemetery, an inordinate number of the simple white crosses and headstones commemorate dead newborn, infants and teenagers. On the outside wall of the building that houses the community's alcohol and drug awareness program, a sibling of Sebastian Riche, a youth who hanged himself last summer, has scribbled in black marker: "I miss you. You are the best brother I ever had." Sometimes, the litany of loss seems almost beyond comprehension. Paul Rich, the settlement's 32-year-old chief, lost his father, who died while under the influence of alcohol. His mother died after falling off a wharf while drunk. One of his brothers was just 10 when he was run over by a tractor while left alone by his alcoholic parents. Another reached adulthood but died in a car accident in which alcohol was also thought to be involved. "Everyone here knows about loss," Rich says.

For most there seems to be no way out. Mary May Osmond, 48, grew up neglected and suffering physical and sexual abuse. Later, she repeated the whole ghastly cycle—turning to booze, physically abusing her six kids when she was home at all. Eventually, she got sober, entered a 12-step addiction program and became a counsellor at the Innu drug program.

But sitting at her kitchen table last week, she was too numb to feel pride in her accomplishment. Andrew Rich's suicide, a terrible thing in its own right, also brought back the events of July 20—when her 27-year-old son Clarence, who had also been sexually abused by a white teacher in the community,



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In Davis Inlet, calls for Ottawa to take stronger action

went to the basement of his parents' house and shot himself "Everything that is wrong here is passed on from generation to generation," says Osmond as she holds Clarence's three-year-old daughter Shania, a bubbly toddler whom she and her husband, also named Clarence, have now adopted

Innu youth talk openly about their pain and sense of hopelessness They acknowledge that they drink, take drugs and sniff gasoline to forget the boredom, the beatings, the abuse And it is particularly chilling to hear Audrey Snow, the 15-year-old daughter of Francesca Snow, the community's Innu school principal, or Theresa Gregoire, the 17-year-old daughter of Rose Gregoire, who runs the settlement's women's shelter, calmly admit that they have considered suicide

So many do not stop there "It just gets to be too much," stresses Paul Pone, He is a squarely built 22 year-old whose arms are adorned with tattoos (one says "Love hurts") and whose stomach bears a livid scar—a memento of the night seven years ago when he almost reached the end of the line At the time, he was drinking heavily, trying, he says, to forget his miserable home life, and the sexual abuse he suffered from one of his teachers One night, he grabbed his father's rifle, went outside, and raised the gun to shoot himself in the head A friend ran out of the darkness to stop him Determined to end his life, Pone managed to shoot himself in the abdomen, "When you are living in hell, you'll do anything to get away from it," he says by way of explanation

'I mouthed the words "don't drink" through the window—I saw him nod yes, and I felt good when I left'

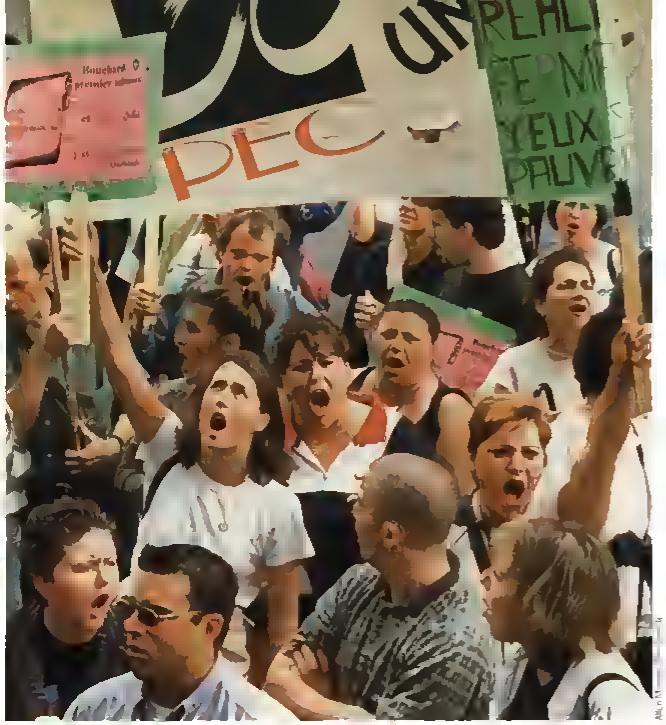
How did it come to this? The Innu had been hunters, but by the 1930s a cyclical dip in the caribou population, combined with a sharp drop in fur prices, made their way of life increasingly difficult to sustain The Newfoundland government, which retained control over Labrador's Innu when it entered Confederation in 1949, wanted them to settle in one place and give up hunting and trapping for traditional wage jobs So did the Catholic Church, anxious for Innu converts

At first, the Innu resisted the pressure to live in permanent settlements But by 1964, they had increasingly begun to give up their tents and wandering lifestyle With age-old traditions disappearing, the cycle of alcoholism, abuse and neglect was under way "My people are suffering from post-traumatic syndrome," says Peter Penashue, a programs co-ordinator for the Sheshatshiu band and former Innu Nation president He says his people must help themselves—"but we need the tools "

So far, the federal government has been balking Last week, Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin received a blunt no from a federal bureaucrat when he asked Ottawa to grant the Innu the equivalency of First Nations status, which would give them greater control over such things as policing, education, health and capital spending (currently, the Newfoundland government is responsible for the Innu) And the Innu's land claims negotiations with the province and Ottawa, already nine years old, continue with no end in sight,

The prospect of a future without change is too much for some to bear In his basement, Napess Ashini points to a motorcycle underneath the stairs, a weight machine in the corner, a punching bag hanging from the ceiling "I gave Mr T all these things to try to keep him away from the drinking and drugs," he says "But it didn't work He was weak in this community But in the country where he could camp, hunt and trap, he was strong " Ashini says he is going to give the exercise equipment, the pool table and motorcycle to his son's friends—maybe it will keep them from tragedy He walks to the far wall and takes down the frame of a snowshoe he and Andrew had been working on "We will never have a chance to finish it together," Ashini says Then, he hangs it back up and walks upstairs where his son's mourners await





A demonstration in September taking over job training and running into problems

Canada

The PQ and a losing condition

Critics lambaste a faltering provincial agency

By Brenda Branswell

For months, Lynda Caron's dream of eventually landing a good job was mired in a bureaucratic nightmare. A year ago, she quit her Quebec City restaurant job to return to school, frustrated by the constraints posed by her Grade 7 education. "I was making a lot of mistakes," says Caron, 34, citing problems with numbers and spelling. Her early encounters with Emploi-Québec, the province's nascent job-training agency, went smoothly. An agent signed a contract approving her plans to take a literacy course and obtain a high-school diploma, she says. But in July, Caron says the cash-strapped agency broke that commitment and cut off her $1,200 monthly cheque. Determined to forge ahead, Caron, who has custody of her three daughters two weekends a month, started an accelerated high-school program in June, living on borrowed money. She refused to go on welfare for fear it would weaken her case while she fought to overturn Emploi-Québec's decision. "I want to continue," an earnest Caron recently told *Maclean's*, "because I have a goal and I want to attain it."

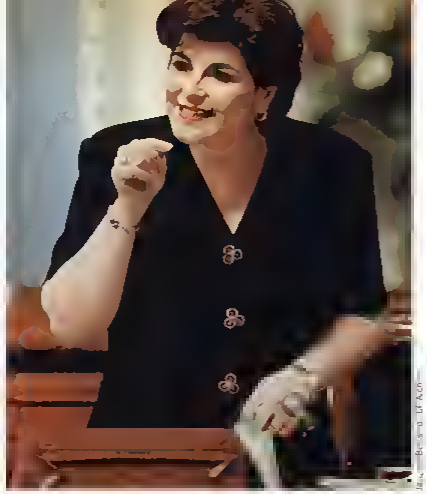
Her persistence paid off. Early this month, Caron says, Emploi-Québec agreed to honour her contract until she finishes her studies in 2001. But thousands of other jobless Quebecers have faced similar run-ins with the beleaguered job-training agency, lambasted by critics who have called it everything from "a mess" to "a catastrophe." And the manpower agency's woes are particularly embarrassing for Premier Lucien Bouchard and his Parti Québécois government.

When Ottawa announced plans in April, 1997, to transfer exclusive control over manpower training to Quebec (until then it had been a shared federal-provincial responsibility), Bouchard declared that the federal government had finally "caved in" to what Quebec politicians had been demanding for three decades. But in the eyes of some observers, the PQ's bungled management of Emploi-Québec has bruised its credibility on the sovereignty front. Not surprisingly, the opposition Liberals mockingly note that the Parti Québécois aspires to run a country—yet is struggling to administrate a manpower training program.

With the current fiscal year ending in March, the agency had already spent three-quarters of its $738-million budget by September. Last year, in its first year of operation, Emploi-Quebec exceeded its budget by $80 million. The problems came to a head last summer when the agency reneged on job-training commitments with 4,869 people, saying it had run out of money. Faced with a public outcry, the government backtracked and freed up $40 million from the agency's existing budget to finance those commitments. Still, last month PQ Labour Minister Diane Lemieux announced a reduction in services. Emploi-Québec, which in 1998 helped roughly 250,000 people, will



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Lemieux: putting blame for the fiasco on growing pains

this year service 65,000 less "Maybe we served too many last year," says Lemieux.

For the provincial Liberals, the manpower-training scandal has provided a political field day. They are demanding an investigation by Quebec's auditor general, and say the situation is yet another example of PQ mismanagement. "Everywhere the PQ goes to administrate, we end up with a major problem," charges Pierre Marsan, the Liberals' employment critic. But Lemieux says much of the problem is understandable—and attributable to growing pains. For one thing, Emploi-Québec was saddled with incompatible federal and provincial computer systems, which Lemieux acknowledges "created incredible problems." And she notes that setting up the agency involved the merger of 3,000 workers—federal and provincial employees—into a new organization. "Do you know a large business that merges with another large business and everything goes swimmingly instantly?" asks Lemieux. "It's not possible."

Some of the 1,084 federal civil servants transferred to the Quebec agency are certainly not happy. According to Joane Hurens, vice-president for Quebec at the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the union that used to represent them, the former federal manpower employees lament that they had much more authority in their old roles. "For example," says Hurens, "when they were negotiating training contracts, they had the authority to sign them even if they weren't the top manager." But Hurens says in the Quebec public service, which she maintains is much more bureaucratic, decision making is extremely centralized. "Our old members say that one of the problems is that there is a lot of control," she adds.

But for many, the problem comes down to money—too little of it. Emploi-Québec was set up to offer manpower training to people on unemployment insurance as well as welfare recipients. The current $738-million budget consists of Ottawa's $555-million contribution for those who paid into the Employment Insurance Fund, along with $183 million from Quebec. That, critics say, just isn't enough. Says Nancy Neamtan, vice-president of a community economic development corporation in southwest Montreal: "The problem with Emploi-Quebec is that there wasn't enough money, there wasn't enough time, and there was also this conception that the bureaucracy could do it all."

Some claim that those hardest hit by Emploi-Québec's problems are people most in need of help. Sylvie Tardif, a coordinator with Comsep, a Trois-Rivières organization that offers manpowet training, says she no longer gets referrals from Emploi-Québec for completely illiterate people because it takes too long to train them.

The opposition is making hay out of the fact that the Parti Québécois wants to administer a country, but is having trouble with one government program

Lemieux has argued that other ministries should be taking care of certain responsibilities—such as helping people finish high school.

For the PQ government, the stakes are high. Sovereignty will be a front-burner issue at both the federal Bloc Québécois and PQ policy conventions next year; making sure that sovereigntists can also call themselves good managers is obviously a priority as well. Conceding that 1999 was "a bit difficult," Lemieux says the manpower-training situation can only improve. "I think as of next year we'll have put Emploi-Québec in a good cruising rhythm," she said in an interview. But given the job-training agency's current budget restraints, the uproar is likely to continue.

Especially if people like Lucie Gamache continue to make waves. Gamache, 24, quit her job at a Quebec City fast-food restaurant last year to go to high school—she had left school after Grade 6—with the hope of a better future. According to Gamache, Emploi-Québec reneged on a signed agreement to support her studies through a college program. (Emploi-Québec maintains that its financial commitment on her contract only covered her high-school studies.) She now faces being cut off financially once she finishes her high-school studies in June. The mother of a three-year-old daughter, Gamache vows that she will "fight until the end."

Caron, meanwhile, says her "painful" four-month battle with Emploi-Québec affected her studies. She took part in two protests, including one in front of Quebec's national assembly, after her problems with the agency began. "I think they gave me money so I would be quiet, so I'd stop complaining in front of the cameras," she says. One thing is certain: the Parti Québécois clearly hopes Emploi-Québec's growing pains fade from the media spotlight—as soon as possible. m

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Bruce Wallace

A time for tough talk

Jean Chrétien was hailed as a hero when he stopped off in Nigeria on his way to the Commonwealth summit in South Africa last week. Nigeria's newly elected president Olusegun Obasanjo thanked Chrétien for standing "firmly against tyranny" during the dark years of Gen Sani Abacha's military dictatorship, when Canada pushed to have the African country suspended from the Commonwealth for slipping off democracy's path. Chrétien happily took his bows, though it's a pretty good bet Abacha's fatal 1998 heart attack had more to do with the regime's collapse than any huffing from Ottawa.

But Chrétien has never been clear on how Canada can best help transform nasty regimes into more open, rules-based societies. For every straightforward case calling for isolation from the family of nations—take Slobodan Milosevic's Yugoslavia—there is a more difficult one, such as whether to welcome China into the World Trade Organization. Chrétien has always argued Canadas limited power makes it best to engage undemocratic regimes and prod them towards change (the very approach he pushed the Commonwealth to take towards Pakistan's newly installed generals). But he often forgets that leverage is only worth something if you use your foot in the door to express a few hard truths to your hosts.

Chrétien is naturally reluctant to make waves on foreign turf and, when he does, it comes only after a struggle. On last January's trade mission to Kiev, Chrétien uncharacteristically told the Ukrainians to crack down on the rampant corruption, fixed deals and toothless laws that make foreign investors nervous. But the Prime Minister fought hard against the idea of including any tough talk, and relented only after advisers warned him furious Canadian investors in Ukraine were prepared to raise a stink in the Canadian media if he didn't.

Timidity also killed Chrétien's ballyhooed opening to Cuba. Canada's business and cultural links give it a real role to play in speeding the end of Fidel Castro's tawdry regime, and Chrétien's 1998 visit was a good idea in principle. But Chrétien seemed so eager to take credit for shepherding Cuba in from the cold he barely mumbled a word of criticism Castro's way. The four jailed dissidents the Prime Minister quietly urged Castro to release were convicted in closed trials a year later. And by last summer, Castro was calling Canada enemy territory. So much for leverage.

Compare Chrétien's performance to that of Illinois Gov. George Ryan, who last month showed it is possible to deal with Castro without leaving your voice and principles at home. The visit to Havana was the first by a U.S. governor to Cuba in 40 years. Like Chrétien, Ryan believes Washington's embargo is misguided, and he also holds clear-eyed economic motives for ending it: Illinois is a big agribusiness state that wants a piece of Cuba's hefty food-import bill.

Ryan showed up with a party of business leaders and almost $3 million in badly needed humanitarian aid in tow. But he spoke his mind, too. He told Cuban journalists "the problem with Cuba is Fidel Castro." In a speech at the University of Havana, he quoted extensively from Abraham Lincoln. " 'No man,' Lincoln said, 'is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent' " the governor told the Cubans. Lincoln, he added, "never feared the voice of the people."

Castro did not then snub the governor. Ryan was not hustled out to the airport and put on a plane for home. And when he did leave, Castro allowed him to take along a seven-year-old boy who needed treatment in the United States for liver disease. Castro's horrid political model will not crumble overnight from words alone, but Ryan could rightly claim a small victory. And he didn't have to stifle his principles to get it.



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The Dionnes weigh in

The three surviving Dionne quintuplets called on the Quebec government and the Roman Catholic Church to satisfy the demands of the so-called Duplessis orphans. The orphans, who were institutionalized in asylums between the late 1930s and 1950s during the time of premier Maurice Duplessis, are demanding compensation and have rejected a $3-million offer from Quebec. In 1998, the Dionne sisters received $4 million in compensation from the Ontario government for the way they were exploited as a tourist attraction during their childhood.

Black vs. Chrétien

Lawyers for Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and media mogul Conrad Black faced off in Ontario Superior Court. Black is suing Chrétien for $25,000, claiming that he abused his power and acted maliciously when Ottawa blocked Black's appointment to the British House of Lords in June. Chrétien's lawyers, who want the suit dismissed, say he was simply exercising his prerogative when he told British officials such an appointment might contravene Canadian policy. Chief Justice Patrick LeSage must now decide whether to let the case proceed to trial.

Vander Zalm returns

Bill Vander Zalm was elected leader of the Reform Party of B.C. The former Social Credit premier, who resigned in disgrace in 1991 after a conflict-of-interest scandal, is contesting a Dec. 7 provincial byelection in Vancouver's Delta South riding. Delta South has long been a Liberal stronghold; Vander Zalm's party received only six per cent of the popular vote there in the 1996 provincial election.

Top-secret heist

Officials have ordered an investigation after a published report said that three drug addicts stole a top-secret document from the car of a Canadian Security Intelligence Service officer while he was attending a Toronto Maple Leafs hockey game in October. The document, which was in a briefcase, was never recovered—the thieves disposed of the briefcase in a Dumpster.



A time to remember and give thanks

Second World War veteran Cliff Chedderton, chairman of the National Council of Veteran Associations, remembers fallen comrades after taking part in the Remembrance Day ceremony on Parliament Hill. Across Canada, Canadians paid tribute to those who bore arms, observing a two-minute silence. In Ottawa, tens of thousands packed the lawn in front of the Peace Tower.

Locked out in British Columbia

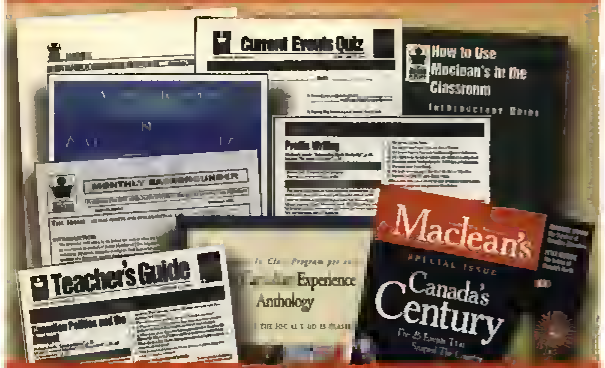
Calls for federal intervention increased as a lockout at the port of Vancouver—the country's largest—and other B.C. ports crippled the provincial economy and threatened to wreak havoc across the country. The dispute came to a head after the International Longshore and Warehouse Union refused to put a contract offer to its membership for a vote, and the B.C. Maritime Employers' Association retaliated by locking out workers on Nov. 7. At issue is Sultran, a sulphur consortium that owns a terminal on the Vancouver waterfront and has hired some non-unionized inspectors. The union wants the employers' association to force Sultran to hire unionized inspectors; management says that question is outside the scope of the collective agreement.

The lockout, meanwhile, is costing the Canadian economy an estimated $100 million a day. Last week, 16 senior executives in British Columbia's forestry sector called on the federal government to intervene in the dispute—a demand that was echoed by other business leaders. Labour Minister Claudette Bradshaw told the two sides to settle their differences by Sunday or face back-to-work legislation.

Guilty verdict in a policeman's murder

Emotions ran high in a Toronto courtroom as Mary Barbara Taylor and Elaine Rose Cece were found guilty of second-degree murder in the Aug. 4, 1998, stabbing death of undercover police officer William Hancox. During the three-week trial, the court heard how the two women, who are lovers, had been on a crack-cocaine binge and decided to leave Toronto if they could steal a car. They were scouting a mall parking lot when Hancox, driving a van, pulled in to buy refreshments. After stabbing the officer, they ran away, but were arrested two days later.

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Canada Notes

APEC confusion

Problems continued to mount at the RCMP Public Complaints Commission hearings into security at the November, 1997, APEC summit in Vancouver. Early last week, commission lawyer Marvin Storrow resigned, saying the uproar over revelations that he had attended Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Vancouver fund-raising dinner in October made it impossible to continue in his position. (The hearings, chaired by former B.C. conflict-of-interest commissioner Ted Hughes, are looking into whether security at the summit, during which protesters were subjected to pepper spray, was excessive—and whether the Prime Minister's Office had been involved.)

In the wake of Storrow's resignation, Jonathan Oppenheim, who protested at the summit, charged that the commission was guilty of "systemic bias." But Hughes reacted angrily to that charge and sharply rebuked Oppenheim, demanding that he either prove that allegation in court or desist. Oppenheim stood by his comments.

A plea for clemency

Amalia Richardson, whose husband, Allen, is an American fugitive from justice, made an emotional plea that he be allowed to stay in Canada. Allen Richardson, 50, whose real name is Christopher Perlstein, escaped from custody in 1971 six weeks after being convicted of selling seven hits of LSD to an undercover police officer in Rochester, N.Y., where he was attending college. For the past 17 years, he has worked as a lab technician at the University of British Columbia. His wife, who has battled breast cancer, said she knows that the millions of women who have also suffered from the disease "will all share my immense dread at being left alone to deal with it." Last week, a U.S. judge ordered Richardson to return to the United States to serve his four-year sentence. Richardson, who was ordered out of the country by Immigration Canada last January, is appealing to the government.

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The Queen addresses the upper house during last year's opening of Parliament long history

Lords A-leaving

Britain's hereditary peers fall victim to reform of the House of Lords

By Barry Came in London

By the Queen's Robing Room inside the Palace of Westminster, there is a small, sedate chamber they call the Norman Porch. It is populated entirely with busts of past luminaries of the House of Lords, each of whom has served as British prime minister. Baron Home of the Hirsel occupies pride of place, the very last of Britain's hereditary peers to hold the post, even if he had to renounce his title, becoming plain Sir Alec Douglas-Home, to do so. "He bought me a drink after my maiden speech," recalls William Shaughnessy, directing a fond gaze up at the marbled features atop the plinth in front of him. The speaker is 77 years old, short, thin, balding, just a little cantankerous. Like Sir Alec, he, too, is the last of his kind. "There aren't many Canadians here, nor much more than a dozen in all," he remarks sometime later, not without a tinge of bitter regret. "By next week, we're all gone. We're history."

More than 800 years of history, in fact. For Shaughnessy may be Canadian born and bred but he is also a member of the British peerage, the 3rd Baron Shaughnessy of Montreal and Ashford, County Limerick. And last week he fell victim to the modernizing efforts of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour government, along with more than 600 fellow British peers who inherited their often-ancient titles, including a small contingent of Canadians. In keeping with one of Blair's key election campaign promises, all were expelled from the House of Lords, the storied upper chamber of Britain's parliament. Until last week, there were some 1,200 members of the Lords, 759 of them so-called hereditary peers, enjoying the right to sit—and vote—within the exclusive, red leather-bound confines of the upper house simply by accident of birth. When the Queen enters the Lords on Nov. 17 to deliver the speech from the throne to open the next Parliament, only 92 hereditaries, granted temporary reprieve, will be on hand; most of the rest will be life peers, appointed members whose titles expire with them. Among the missing will be the 3rd Baron Shaughnessy. "How do I feel?" he asked as he cleaned out his Westminster office last week. "In a word, sad."

Similar sentiments prevailed among all of those who, like the Canadian lord, were quietly bidding farewell last week to what has been described by more than one cynical observer as "the best club in London." There were, however, few tears being shed by those who engineered the hereditaries' demise, in particular the Labour government's leader in the Lords, the Baroness Jay of Paddington, often referred to in private by disgruntled peers as Posh Spice. "After 70, they should retire anyway," declared a dismissive Lady Jay. "They have no idea of how other people live. They're so old-fashioned, patronizing, sexist and racist. They don't like me. I'm a woman. Left-wing, interfering and determined. If we don't flirt with them demurely, they get cross."



Peter Bregg/Maclean's

Lord Shaughnessy: 'How do I feel? Sad.'

It has long been a central tenet of Labour party policy to rid the Lords of the hereditaries, who are overwhelmingly conservative in attitude, if not actual members of the Tory party. But it was not until the election of the Blair government, with its commanding 176-seat majority in the House of Commons, that much was accomplished. Reform of the Lords is merely one part, albeit critical, of Blair's unfolding plan to radically overhaul the constitutional makeup of the United Kingdom. His government has already devolved political power to what many in Britain describe as the "Celtic fringe," establishing regional legislatures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Next spring, another step is scheduled when London will get its first-ever elected mayor. By the time that election takes place, under the original scheme, the House of Lords was to have been transformed into a body much like the Canadian Senate, peopled with lifelong government appointees.

Blair's program, however, has run into snags, at least as far as the Lords are concerned. Accused of attempting to subvert the independence of the upper chamber by populating it with "Tony's cronies," the Prime Minister was forced into appointing a royal commission to recommend the future composition and powers of the reformed Lords. That commission, under the chairmanship of former Tory cabinet minister Lord Wakeham, is expected to issue its report by the end of the year. Much to the government's dismay, it appears to be about to propose a new House that will be partly appointed and partly elected, with considerable powers to review government measures, especially concerning relations with the European Union.

While awaiting the report, the government last week enacted the necessary legislation to get rid of the hereditaries. But even that measure required a compromise. To ensure its smooth passage—on the old Parliament's final day—the government had agreed to allow the hereditaries to select from among their numbers 92 peers who will continue to serve temporarily until the final reforms are agreed upon. For the past month, the Lords were engaged in that effort, the first time most have fought an election in their lives.

The endeavour was marked by moments of high tragedy and low farce, played out beneath the Lords' spectacular stained glass and gilded wood by some of the most colourful characters in British public life. One peer, 67-year-old Lord Montague of Oxford, died during the debates, collapsing into his seat moments after speaking. The Earl of Burford, a direct descendant of the bastard son of royal mistress Nell Gwynn and Charles II, was forcibly carried from the House after sparking an uproar by climbing upon the Woolsack, the ceremonial seat of the Lord Chancellor, and loudly denouncing Blair's "treason" in abolishing peers' rights as the first step "towards the creation of a United States of Europe." The 16th Baroness Strange, whose title dates from 1628, managed to convince her fellows to elect her as one of the privileged 92 by reminding them how she brought fresh flowers to the House every day. Lord Monckton of Benchley lost his bid despite a campaign that proposed, among other measures, the muzzling of cats "to stop the agonizing torture of mice and small birds."

For many of the Lords, the last month has been an ordeal that most would have preferred to avoid. That certainly holds true for Montreal-born Lord Shaughnessy, now a London resident whose title dates back to his grandfather, the third president of the Canadian Pacific Railway. "What's lost in all of this nonsense," he complained over a glass of white wine in the Lords' private bar, "is the fact that a helluva of a lot of us took this job very seriously. We worked long hours for low pay out of nothing more than a sense of public duty." With a glance around the oak-panelled bar, he remarked, "There's an awful lot of expertise right here in this room that's going to be

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lost." As a case in point, he gestured to a cousin, Lord Grenfell, recently retired from the International Monetary Fund, now serving as chairman of the European Union's select committee on economic, financial and trade affairs. "Julian will be missed."

As will Shaughnessy himself. In close to two decades in the Lords, he has emerged as one of the resident experts on Canadian and Commonwealth affairs. In the future, Canadian expertise will have to come from the appointed life peers in the Lords, individuals like newspaper publisher Conrad Black, if he ever wins his legal battle with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. For in the Nov. 5 vote, none of the hereditary peers with Canadian connections managed to make it into the new Lords.

There are no precise figures on how many Canadians may have held seats in the Lords, largely because of the widespread use of dual citizenship. But there may be as many as 18 hereditary peers today with Canadian links. They are people like the Marquess of Exeter, who owns a ranch near 100 Mile House, B.C., Viscount Hardinge of Lahore, a New York City-based executive of the Royal Bank of Canada, and Baron Strathcona, whose great-grandfather founded Lord Strathcona's Horse, the celebrated Canadian army regiment that recently saw duty in Kosovo.

Another is Richard Fleming George, the current Earl Grey, whose ancestors lent their name to the popular blend of tea as well as the trophy that is emblematic of success in the Canadian Football League. "Yes, it's my cup," Earl Grey joked one recent evening as he stood waiting for a taxi outside the House he has now vacated forever. He recalled a chilly autumn in Montreal long ago when he officiated at the opening kickoff of a Grey Cup game. "I kicked that ball a mile," he chuckled. Soon, he will launch a new line of sportswear bearing his family's heraldic symbol. "I have to do something," he shrugged. "There's going to be a huge gap in the lives of those peers who were very active in Lords. Where will their energies be put now?" At the very least, they will have to find a new club. m



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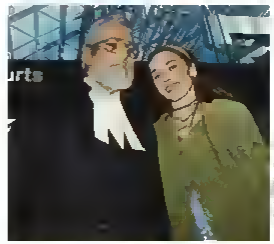
Andrew Phillips

The marijuana mess

Talk about uphill battles. Renée Bojé—artist, fugitive from American justice, denizen of British Columbia's Sunshine Coast—is trying to convince a B.C. court to declare her a refugee from political persecution in the United States. This, let's face it, is a tough case to make. Prosecutors in California want Canada to send Bojé back to face charges of conspiring to grow and sell marijuana, hardly the usual definition of a political crime. But however farfetched her claim, she's already managed to draw attention to the incoherence of American drug laws.

Bojé's case goes back to 1997 in Los Angeles, where she met Todd McCormick, a cancer patient and activist for the use of marijuana to treat ailments like cancer and AIDS. McCormick hired her to illustrate a book he was writing on growing marijuana for medical use. She started hanging out at his mansion in tony Bel-Air, which police raided on July 29, 1997.

There they found 4,116 high-grade marijuana plants. Police say McCormick planned to sell them; he says he was using the plants to treat the symptoms of his own cancer and was trying to develop new strains of marijuana to fight other diseases. Bojé, now 30, was among nine people arrested that night. The strongest evidence against her, according to police affidavits, is that she was seen watering some of McCormick's plants. The punishment she and the others face under U.S. federal law is draconian: a mandatory *minimum* of 10 years in prison without parole.



Conroy and Bojé, claiming asylum

Not surprisingly, Bojé decided to duck the bullet. She fled to British Columbia in 1998, after her lawyer told her he didn't think he could get her off. A native of New York City, she was drawn to Vancouver because of its relaxed attitudes towards marijuana, and has been fighting extradition to the United States in the B.C. Supreme Court. She expects a ruling on Dec. 15. If she loses—which is likely—she plans to take her case for asylum to federal Justice Minister Anne McLellan.

That, to put it mildly, is a long shot. Canada, especially British Columbia, is already seen by many in Washington as soft on drugs. Powerful pot known as "B.C. Bud" is flowing south, grown in the relatively tolerant climate of British Columbia and snapped up by American consumers willing to pay up to $9,000 a pound. And for Canada to give Bojé asylum would be an open slap at the American justice system.

McCormick and Bojé have managed, though, to underline the confused, and confusing, nature of U.S. law. Washington, caught up in its $27-billion-a-year "war on drugs," adamantly maintains a so-called zero-tolerance policy and classifies marijuana among the most highly controlled substances, along with heroin and cocaine. Penalties have soared—like the 10-year minimum hanging over Bojé.

But when citizens have had a chance to express their views directly, they've made a common-sense distinction between legalizing marijuana for recreational purposes and allowing its use for valid medical reasons. Voters in six states and the District of Columbia have approved ballot measures allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana to alleviate the symptoms of serious diseases like cancer and AIDS. And in 1996, Californians approved Proposition 215, allowing patients to smoke pot with a doctor's recommendation.

The medical evidence is also tilting against Washington. A study conducted by a branch of the National Academy of Sciences concluded in March that the active ingredients in marijuana are indeed effective against cancer and AIDS symptoms. Significantly, it also found no evidence that letting sick people use the drug would increase illegal use by others. Almost all politicians, though, run from the issue at full speed. Even suggesting that marijuana might have valid uses opens them up to the "soft on drugs" charge—despite the fact that noted conservatives like Newt Gingrich were early sponsors of medical marijuana laws. Bill Clinton, who famously claimed that he did not inhale, has been predictably silent on the issue.

All that leaves McCormick and Bojé under the gun. His trial opens in Los Angeles on Nov. 16, and a judge has already ruled that he cannot invoke medical necessity in his defence. Bojé acknowledges that she is "one of the small fish" in the case, which has become a rallying point for medical-marijuana advocates. Her B.C. lawyer, John Conroy, will press her case for asylum, but the the real fight is for public opinion. "Does it shock the conscience of Canadians," he asks, "to send a young woman to face 10 years in prison for watering plants for a man who had them for a medical reason?" That's the question the justice minister will have to address.



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Earthquake in Turkey

Hundreds of people were believed dead and thousands injured after a powerful earthquake struck northwestern Turkey Measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, it was the second major quake to strike the area this year A massive 7 4-magnitude earthquake in August killed 17,000 people Last week's quake was centred at the town of Duzce, leaving many buildings levelled and survivors coping with freezing temperatures

Baptists split over wives

The powerful Southern Baptists of Texas voted to reject church dogma dictating that women are subservient to their husbands Last year, the national convention of the 15 7-million-strong church said a woman must "submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ " Texas is the church's largest state convention, with 2 7 million members

Tragedy in Italy

A six-storey building collapsed in the southern Italian town of Foggia while more than 25 families were sleeping, killing at least 48 people and leaving many buried under tons of concrete and steel Rescue workers and fire brigades dug with their bare hands in an attempt to find survivors.

Y2K fears in Russia

The U S state department, fearing year 2000 computer glitches, is allowing diplomats in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova to leave their posts temporarily until the new year It also issued a travel warning for the region, saying breakdowns in the electrical system could result in disruptions in heat, water and telephones

School killer gets 111 years

Kip Kinkel, the 17-year-old Springfield, Ore., boy who gunned down his parents and then killed two students at his high school in a hail of bullets, was sentenced to 111 years in prison At his hearing, nearly 50 people, including relatives of the dead, demanded he spend the rest of his life in prison.

A stress on rights



Paul Chiasson/CP

Chrétien views slaves' shackles on Gorée, horrors

Human rights issues—past and present—dominated Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's first official trip to Africa. After seeing the horrors of an old slave market in Senegal and hearing praise for Canada's activist stance in newly democratic Nigeria, Chrétien turned his focus to Pakistan at the annual Commonwealth summit in Durban, South Africa Pakistan's prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, was toppled in a military coup engineered by Gen Pervaiz Musharraf in October In response, the 54-member Commonwealth suspended Pakistan, and Chrétien said he wants Musharraf to set a specific timetable for a return to democracy "We are very unhappy with the situation," he said

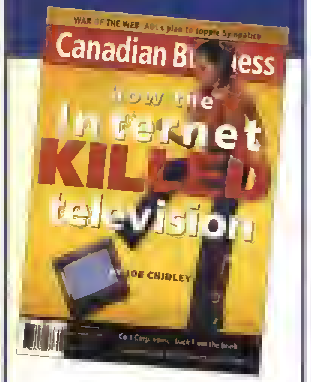
Before the meeting, Canadian High Commissioner Ferry de Kerckhove and another senior Commonwealth envoy became the first outsiders to meet with Sharif, who is under house arrest Analysts saw the visit as a sign that Musharraf may be responsive to Commonwealth concerns, and the summit avoided sanctions against Pakistan Under Commonwealth rules, it has two years to return to democracy before facing a mandatory expulsion The country's delicate state was emphasized again when six rockets exploded near a U S cultural centre and a UN office in Islamabad. No one was killed in the attack, and no one claimed responsibility

Earlier, Chrétien denounced human rights abuses and promised to boost foreign aid to the region after he sombrely toured Gorée Island in democratic Senegal. It was there that millions of slaves were herded onto ships and sent to America from the mid-16th to mid-19th centuries The Prime Minister then travelled on to Nigeria where Mounties in full regalia stood guard as he officially reopened Canada's high commission in Abuja, the capital. Ottawa left the building unstaffed for more than a year in the waning days of the former military dictatorship. President Olusegun Obasanjo, who was elected in May, thanked Canada for its strong support of Nigeria's opposition.

Farewell, Kosovo

In tacit recognition that Canada's forces are overextended, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has ordered nearly all of the country's soldiers to leave Kosovo by spring As part of an agreement to cut back troop levels, Defence Minister Art Eggleton said Canada will reduce its force in Kosovo to a token 100 from the present 1,450, while beefing up its contingent in neighbouring Bosnia to about 1,800 from 1,300 The changes are in line with NATO efforts to reduce the number of troops in the former Yugoslavia, but Chrétien told Eggleton in a letter last week that a reduction was necessary because of "the costs involved and the lack of capability to respond to new peace and security challenges." Canada now has about 4,500 troops overseas, but with the Kosovo withdrawal and the return of 650 peacekeepers from East Timor, the total by late spring or early summer will be about 3,000—a number Eggleton said the Canadian Forces can sustain

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World Notes

The precipitous plunge of Flight 990

The mystery deepened over the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 off the coast of Massachusetts, which killed all 217 aboard, including 22 Canadians. Officials of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in Washington released information from the jetliner's flight data recorder, one of its two so-called black boxes. It showed there was nothing wrong with the Boeing 767's systems before it began its fatal plunge into the Atlantic Ocean in the early hours of Oct. 31. But during the plane's sudden descent, the engines were turned off from the cockpit—raising the dire possibility that the pilot or someone deliberately took it into a steep, controlled dive. At one point, on a sharp 40-degree angle, the plane approached the speed of sound, making the passengers weightless.

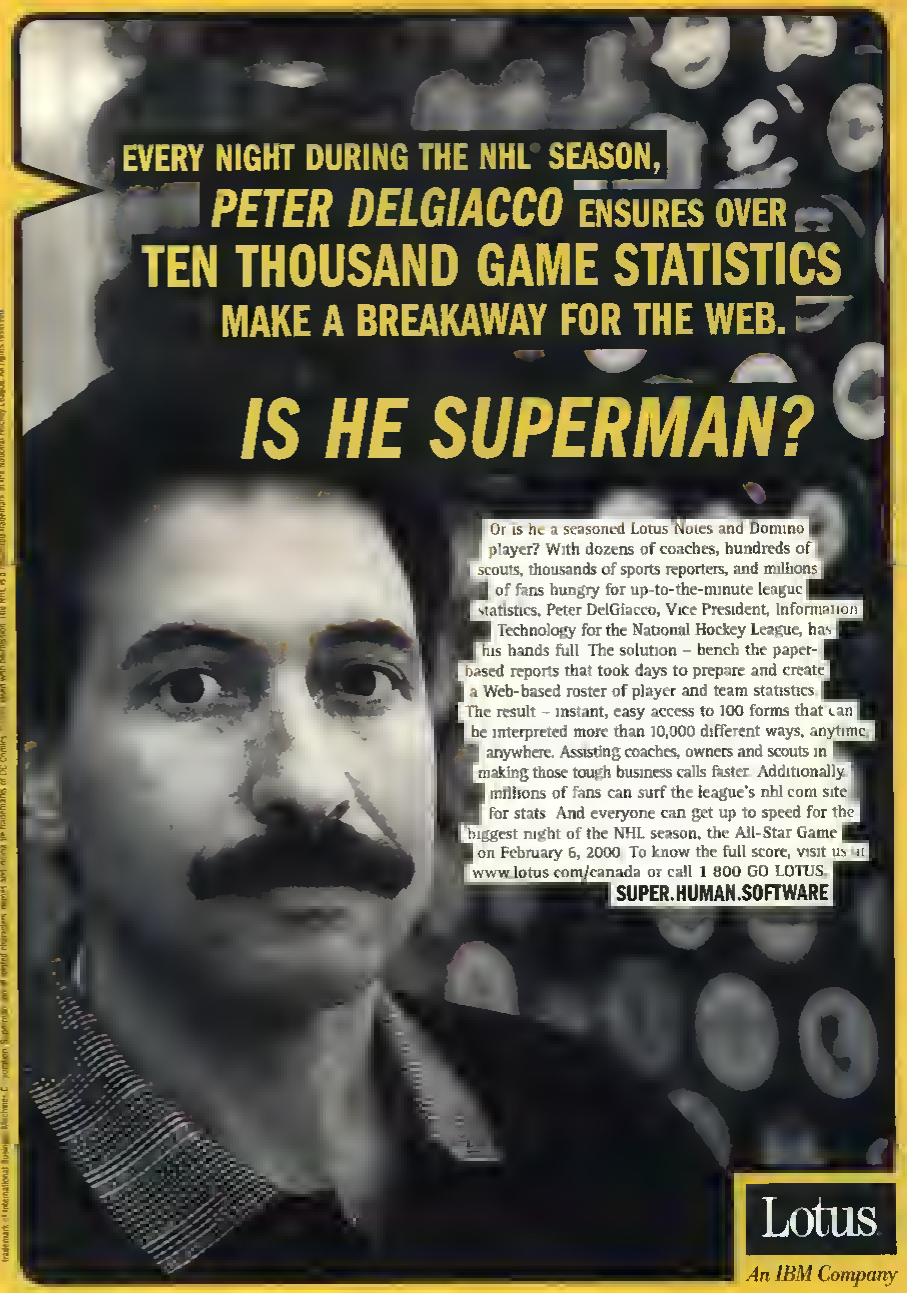
The doomed flight was bound from New York City's John F. Kennedy Airport to Cairo, cruising at an altitude of 10,000 m, when the trouble began. The plane's crew did not contact air traffic controllers. But the flight data recorder, recovered from the wreckage some 80 m below the surface of the ocean 100 km southeast of Nantucket Island, showed that the 767's autopilot was disconnected—either by the crew or for some unknown mechanical reason. "About eight seconds later," said NTSB chairman James Hall, "the airplane begins what appears to be a controlled descent." A warning signal apparently sounded in the cockpit—possibly as a result of depressurization or excessive speed—just before the engines were shut down. After that 40-second plunge, the plane apparently levelled off before again diving, this time to its death.

The new details raised the question whether or not someone—either the pilot or another person—deliberately put the craft into its steep dive. Hall refused to theorize: "We cannot at this time explain the circumstances on Flight 990, and we will not attempt to speculate about it," he said. He did rule out one possible explanation for the crash that was widely discussed previously—that one of the 767's thrust reversers might have accidentally deployed, sending it into an uncontrolled death spiral. That was the cause of another crash involving a Boeing 767 in Thailand in 1991, but the data recorder showed that Flight 990's thrust reversers did not deploy.



Investigators with flight data recorder: weightless

The new information added urgency to the search for more clues. At week's end, U.S. navy salvage crews were trying to recover the other "black box"—the plane's cockpit voice recorder—using remotely operated underwater drones. The box is designed to record the last 30 minutes of conversation among the flight crew, and may provide the best hope for understanding what happened aboard Flight 990. The voice recorder was believed to be buried under debris, and officials were optimistic about recovering it.





Wayne's New World

Hockey's soon-to-be Hall of Famer talks about life, family and the public perils of selling himself

By James Deacon



S. M. Bihun/Toronto Sun

Relaxing by the pool at home: for a supposed retiree, he hasn't had a lot of downtime

Seated on the polished hardwood gymnasium floor at St. Monica's school in downtown Calgary, the entire student population, kindergarten to Grade 9, is getting antsy. The kids were brought in from lunch recess and told only that there will be an important announcement concerning the provincial electrical utility, TransAlta, and its environment program. The firm is asking students to submit ideas—on fighting pollution, recycling and making more efficient use of electricity—to a provincewide contest. All the kids see when they finally get seated, however, is a small stage with four chairs and three men in suits—the principal, Lionel Bellavance, the chief executive of TransAlta, Stephen Snyder, and Alberta's minister of learning, Lyle Oberg. Important gents in their respective fields, no doubt, but not ones who can keep 300-plus kids from squirming in their seats for any great length of time.

To compensate, though, the men have brought along a special guest. When Bellavance does finally quiet the crowd, he points to a door in one corner and begins, "Please join me in welcom—" The rest of the sentence is inaudible because Wayne Gretzky strides in, looking cool as can be. Black leather four-button blazer, crisp white shirt, black tie, pants and shoes. He waves and smiles—quite shyly, considering he is

In the States, his going-away was almost as big a story as Michael Jordan's departure from basketball



Ian Smith/Maclean's

With Calgary students supporting an environmental awareness program: using endorsements to help charities

used to performing in front of crowds. Four girls near the back aren't shy. They immediately leap to their feet and left fly an ear-piercing collective shriek. The ensuing standing ovation causes the half-dozen wall-mounted basketball hoops to vibrate. Boys whistle and high-five. Teachers take pictures. The weenie kindergarten kids, all wearing green construction-paper headdresses in honour of the environmental theme, shake with excitement. It is bedlam, and it only abates when Gretzky, 38, takes the podium, says a few words of support for TransAlta's program, and offers to take questions. "Why'd you quit hockey?" a boy hollers. "Too old," Gretzky shrugs. "Do you like doughnuts?" another kids asks. "Love 'em," Gretzky says, laughing with everyone else.

On the left side of the stage, Snyder is smiling. Like so many others, he is a fan, but he has also paid a lot—reportedly high six figures—to have Gretzky act as a spokesman for his firm. So the kids' heartfelt response to Gretzky's surprise appearance is a gratifying return on that investment. Snyder is still smiling later that evening when, over at company headquarters, Gretzky is the main attraction at a TransAlta reception for the province's political and business elite. Premier Ralph Klein and billionaire philanthropist Ron Mannix are among those who gather for canapés, hockey talk and signed copies of the Great One's latest picture book. Even members of the A-list don't pass up invitations like that.

Gretzky sure gets around. Since his emotional departure from the league he transformed, he has used his suddenly plentiful free time to relocate the family to their home in California from the Manhattan apartment they kept during his three years as a New York Ranger. He has played celebrity golf tournaments from Nevada to Pennsylvania, and promoted a summit on the state of Canadian hockey. He has lent his name and memorabilia to a slew of fund-raisers, and his presence to his dad's event in support of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in home town Brantford, Ont. Somewhere along the line, he took the family to Hawaii and opened an exhibit at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

But that's not the half of it. Through his California-based agent, Michael Barnett, and the powerful marketing arm of the International Management Group, Gretzky has announced six new endorsement deals, bringing to 10 the number of companies for whom he acts as a spokesman. He is also adding to his portfolio of licensing agreements for the use of his name and image, and equity positions. It is up to Barnett, who fields dozens of calls from prospective partners, to find the right fit. "Wayne likes to work on programs that help them build their businesses, and that help their communities, too," Barnett says. "So it isn't just a matter of agreeing to fees."

Added up, those deals could be worth $9 million annually, but they come at a cost. Most of the sponsoring companies have revved up Gretzky-based advertising campaigns to capitalize on the start of a new season and the high profile of his Nov. 22 induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame. There's Wayne selling tires one minute, painkillers the next, breakfast cereal after that, and the glut of TV and print exposure has prompted some newspaper columnists to suggest that by exercising his marketing muscle, Gretzky has tarnished his own well-polished image. The man himself seems mystified by the reaction, but is careful not to say too much. "I don't think anybody can win in this case," he says.



Shaughn Butts/Edmonton Journal

The family watching Gretzky's number being retired at Edmonton's Skyreach Centre in October, fast-tracked to hockey's Hall of Fame

Those critics, though, will likely hold their fire this week as the hockey world gets set to bestow its highest honour on the Great One. It is doing so promptly: normally, players must wait three years after retiring before being considered for induction. But the hall's board voted unanimously last spring to waive the rule for Gretzky, as it has for nine previous stars—most recently for Mario Lemieux in 1997. The ceremony has become a hot ticket. Gretzky's popularity is such that hall officials in Toronto figure they could fill SkyDome for the occasion. Instead, they have seating for only about 200 in the Bell Great Hall where the induction takes place.

As hockey fans get set to celebrate No. 99's storied past, the former player is getting on with his future. Although stung by criticism about his endorsements, he is forging ahead in business, expanding his sponsorship portfolio and taking ownership positions in some new companies that exchange a percentage of their businesses for the use of his enormous public appeal. Why, when he is already rich beyond his own dreams—in his hockey and business careers, he has earned more than $100 million—does he continue to pursue more? For one thing, he has a lifestyle based on a high income, and he no longer collects a cheque from hockey. Also, he says, he likes the work, likes to be busy—if not too busy. "I don't know what the next step will be," he told *Maclean's* last week. "All I know is that it's time to just have fun with the time I have off."

He could use a little distraction. His wife, Janet, too. The happiest aspect of his retirement was that it coincided with their announcement that she was pregnant with their fourth child. Shortly thereafter, though, she miscarried, and they were crushed. It is still not an easy subject. "It was a tragedy, for a lot of reasons," he says without elaborating. They had to explain it to the kids—Paulina, 10, Ty, 9, and Trevor, 7—who had been getting excited, too. "We told them what was going on and what happened," he says. "The youngest one didn't really understand, but the older two did, and they handled it really well." Then, more softly, he said: "Hopefully, down the road, it will work out and we will have another child."

When Gretzky shed his jersey for the last time, many friends wondered what would become of him when the new season began. Could he go cold turkey after 36 years of living by the hockey calendar? September in training camp, October in the regular season, January in the all-star game and April, generally speaking, in the playoffs. In 1999, September, October and half of November have come and gone and Gretzky hasn't once suited up. Why not? "I gave all my stuff to the Hall of Fame," he says, dodging the issue as he once slipped defenders. Instead, he is sitting in the CEO's office on the ninth floor of TransAlta's Calgary headquarters, taking a break before his command performance at the cocktail reception downstairs with the premier and business types. Would he prefer to be lacing up his skates? "For me, it was the right time to retire and the right decision," he says, like someone who has had to put down a beloved pet. "I am getting along fine now."

Sure, Wayne. Now tell us how you really feel. "OK, I miss it—cripes, I really miss it," he admits. "As much or more than anyone else, I miss it drastically. I miss being with the guys, being at the rink in the morning for practice. I used to drop my kids off at school at 8 o'clock and be at the rink at 9, which was relatively early because practice didn't start until 11 or 11:30. So I would sit around having a coffee with the trainers or some of the coaches and just talk. I really miss that part of it tremendously. And I miss getting on the plane or the bus after a big win, just everyone excited and talking about it. So I miss a lot of it."

The transition has been difficult for the people closest to him, too. Janet and the kids, Barnett and, most of all, his father Walter, all of whom loved being around the rink, too. "My dad quite often says, 'You're going to come back next year,'" Gretzky says. "I know he's kidding, but he's not kidding, if you know what I mean."

Then there are the Rangers, the National Hockey League

'All I have done is work for some high-profile corporations and been paid handsomely for that'

leaders in overspending for underperformance. Even after handing out $67 million to free agents last summer, the Rangers have struggled mightily this season, having failed in all those acquisitions to replace Gretzky with a bona fide No. 1 centre. Last season, the Rangers had the second-best power play in the NHL, but so far this year it ranks last, worse even than expansion Atlanta. Gretzky told The Sports Network last week that he might have played another year if the Rangers had traded for sensational winger Pavel Bure when they had the chance last season. Now, he finds it hard to watch the Broadway Blues sometimes. "Maybe it's because those are the last guys I played with," he says, "but when they lose, I know how hard it is for them, I know what they are thinking about, what they're saying. So when they lose, I'm losing with them."

No wonder he is looking for something else to do. Like golf. He played a lot in the weeks immediately following his final game, 36 holes on many days. It wasn't difficult—his home north of Los Angeles, in Thousand Oaks, Calif., is on the fourth fairway of Sherwood Country Club, which hosted last week's star-studded Shark Shootout tournament. He enjoys playing in the odd tournament himself, he says, but the golf-all-day business wore thin by midsummer. "I found out quickly I don't have the same passion for golf that I had for hockey," he says. "I am not as good as a lot of guys like Brett [Hull] and Mario [Lemieux], and I don't have the time to practise to get to a one or a two handicap. I don't have it in me to do that."



Doug Wilson /Toronto Star

At his final NHL game, the Rangers failed to replace him

He does have the touch for endorsing. His first-ever deal, for Titan hockey sticks in 1979, boosted the little-known Finnish company to become the biggest stick manufacturer in the world. Through his playing career, he represented car rental firms and consumer electronics and soft drinks—while with Los Angeles in the early 1990s, he counted 17 companies in his bulging portfolio and an off-ice income that, in some years, outstripped the $8.5 million (U.S.) annual salary he collected from the Kings.

Recent history suggested the market was still ripe for Gretzky. His going-away was almost as big a story in the United States as was Michael Jordan's departure from basketball only months before, and sports marketing experts say Jordan, in retirement, now boasts an estimated two-dozen separate endorsement deals. There has been similar interest in Gretzky. In the week leading up to his last game, his existing sponsors all told Barnett they wanted to maintain the relationships they had built up—over 18 years, in the case of Toronto-based Zurich Canada Insurance.

New suitors pursued Gretzky, too. TransAlta executives, including Snyder, attended the final game in New York and called Barnett the next morning. The privately held utility is trying to attack a variety of environmental issues, from recycling to CO_2 emissions from its coal-fired plants. Hence the contest to solicit kids' ideas, and the deal for Gretzky. "There has to be significant change at the consumer level," Snyder explains. "The link to Wayne is that we wanted to go after a younger, broader audience, and we wanted to raise awareness quickly."

The pitchman did his job, if the reaction at St. Monica's was any gauge. The students who walked him through their environment-themed art exhibit in the school library claimed they were more interested in the environment contest because of Gretzky. Grade 8 student Alexis McDonald, 13, said it was important to have a celebrity backing the cause. "Because it's Wayne Gretzky," she says, "people will know what it is that we are trying to do." Joseph Toro agrees. "I think with him coming out, we can do more—people will work harder," Toro, 13, told reporters, adding: "Let's face it—without him, you people wouldn't be here."

Bingo. When marketing managers open their companies' wallets for the Great One, they are buying his popularity, his performance record, his name and, most of all, his remarkable ability to attract media attention. In Canada, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce uses Gretzky to publicize their literacy campaign. But to get the attention of Wall Street investors when the bank began listing its common shares on the New York Stock Exchange two years ago, chief executive Al Flood brought Gretzky along to perform the traditional ringing of the bell. An otherwise ho-hum event was suddenly on every newscast and business show in the city.



Stan Behal /Toronto Sun

High-fiving son Ty and friends after tennis: relocated back to California

Lately, though, some of the attention has been negative, at least in Canada. In his defence, members of his marketing team argue that he hasn't overextended his commercial reach; it just looks that way. They point to the fact that Jordan has more endorsements than Gretzky, but not all of Jordan's new ads appeared at the same time. Gretzky's have, even though the various deals were struck months apart. Sports marketing insiders say it was inevitable that companies, having paid the big endorsement bucks, were going to launch their ad campaigns when their client's profile is highest, and that means now. The companies themselves certainly aren't complaining.

"We are not worried about the overexposure, and we don't look at it that way," says Debra Douglas, managing director of global marketing and communications for CIBC World Markets.

Still, consumers don't know the background. All they see is their national icon with his foot up on a tire (for Goodyear), his head in the grip of a wrestler (Imperial Oil) and his hands around a hamburger (McDonald's), all in the name of commerce. The image was further confused by the American arm of pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson, which launched the current Tylenol campaign by insinuating that Gretzky was suffering from the early onset of arthritis. In fact, he has never been so diagnosed, and his only claim was that doctors had prescribed the pills for his post-hockey aches and pains. Gretzky is very sensitive about the subject, pointing out that former baseball pitcher Nolan Ryan has been doing the same for a competitor's product for years. "All of sudden, I did it and people reacted as if no one had ever done that before," Gretzky says. "I have nothing to apologize for."

He is certainly not stepping back. The ads haven't appeared yet, but Gretzky has signed a reported seven-figure deal with Anheuser-Busch in the United States to do a series of comical beer commercials for the Bud Light brand. They will likely begin to appear once ABC starts broadcasting games early next year. He also has a deal brewing with Folger's coffee, and a smaller contract that would give him an equity position with an Internet company.

Is that "cashing in," as some have charged? Or are the criticisms just typically Canadian carping over a countryman's high-profile success—especially now that his transcendent talent in the nation's beloved game is no longer on display? The fact is, if all his new agreements come through, Gretzky will still have fewer endorsements than he had when he was playing in Los Angeles, and no one complained then. "All I have done is work for some high-profile corporations and been paid handsomely for that," he says. "In return, I have done a lot of work in front of the camera or behind it."

Gretzky has several agendas in his work. He wants the income, of course, but he has also used the endorsements to support charities or causes—the environment for TransAlta, CIBC's literacy initiatives, minor hockey with Imperial Oil. Some of the proceeds from his

The Gretzky portfolio

Wayne Gretzky's business relationships, listed below, fall into three categories: endorsements (he acts as a spokesman for the company); licensees (he grants permission for companies to use his name and likeness); and equity partnerships (he owns a percentage of the company).

ENDORSEMENTS

(product name in brackets)

Anheuser-Busch (Bud Light)
CIBC
Goodyear tires
Imperial Oil Ltd.
McDonald's
Procter and Gamble (Folger's coffee)
TransAlta Corp.
Johnson & Johnson (Tylenol)
The Upper Deck Co. (trading cards and memorabilia)
Zurich Canada Insurance

LICENSEES

Hudson's Bay Co. (apparel)
NHL Videos
Atari video games
Kraft (Post cereals)

EQUITY PARTNERSHIPS

Wayne Gretzky's restaurant
All Star Cafes
First Team Sports (in-line skating products, Hespeler hockey sticks)
Worldwide Roller Hockey Inc. (roller hockey rinks)

'I am on a learning curve, and I am enjoying that'



With Janet at the NHL Awards in Toronto in June, crushed

clothing line at the Bay pay for robotic machines that enable hospitalized children to participate in their classrooms. "I can't change the world," he says, "but I can do what I can."

The longer-term agenda, though, is behind the camera, where Gretzky has been putting his time to best use for himself. Executives with several of the companies said they were surprised by his curiosity about how they run their businesses, deal with staff, seek new markets. There is no mystery: Gretzky is looking for something that might someday replace the career he loved. "Where I eventually use that information in the future is not going to surprise anyone because, somewhere, somehow, I will probably end up being back associated with hockey," says Gretzky, who has been courted by a handful of NHL teams offering ownership positions. "But at this point, I am on a learning curve, and I am enjoying that."

But mostly, he says, he is enjoying life, more poignantly since the recent spate of sports deaths—basketball's Wilt Chamberlain, motor racing's Greg Moore and football's Walter Payton. On a day when he is flying between Los Angeles and Calgary on a private jet, the death that hits closest to home is that of golfer and friend Payne Stewart, who died aboard a Learjet last month. "Anyone who knows me knows I have spent 20 years not enjoying being in the air, and to hear about someone you know going through that . . . ," Gretzky says, without completing the thought. "When we left this morning, I asked, 'Is this thing OK? Does it have oxygen?' " He's kidding, of course, but not really, if you know what he means.

With Susan McClelland in Toronto

At last, the refs get their due

Their names will be the trivia pursuits of hockey fans for generations to come: who was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame alongside Wayne Gretzky? (Hint: neither were former players.) But the two fellow inductees who may wither a bit in the glare of the Great One have no cause to hang their heads. In fact, both have made careers of being decidedly in-your-face: former NHL referee-in-chief Ian (Scotty) Morrison, and former ironman referee Andy Van Hellemond.

Of the two, it might even be said that Van Hellemond is Gretzky's rival in the record book, at least in his own craft. The pursed-lipped Winnipegger who learned his trade on frozen rinks—refereeing for $3 a game in -20° C weather—had a tough-as-they-come 24-year career in the NHL. Before retiring three years ago at age 48 to become executive vice-president of the East Coast Hockey League, Van Hellemond wore the stripes in 1,475 regular season games and 227 playoff matches, including—a sign of respect—19 Stanley Cup finals. No other official comes close to that kind of output. Along the way he had his nose broken twice, suffered four cracked ribs and a smashed hand, and was occasionally the subject of death threats.



Morrison, he transformed the Hall into a major attraction



Van Hellemond, he policed a record 19 Cup finals

For much of his career, Van Hellemond toiled under the tutelage of the diminutive Morrison, the league's referee-in-chief for 21 years and an old-school hockey boss who was not shy about telling his officials what he thought—sometimes by drop-kicking the garbage pails in the officials' changing room between periods if he felt his refs were calling a poor game.

But Morrison enters the Hall of Fame as a "builder"—largely for the institution that will house his legacy, along with that of the game's greatest practitioners. President of the Hockey Hall of Fame from 1986 until he retired last year, Morrison was instrumental in transforming a dowdy out-of-the-way hockey museum into a downtown centre of hands-on family entertainment that has become one of Toronto's premier tourist attractions—and a fitting shrine for the great ones.

Robert Sheppard

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As Microsoft's Bill Gates fights antitrust findings, rivals gear up in the battle for Web markets



Gates at annual meeting identifying the territory for which he is prepared to fight

Wins and Losses

By Kimberley Noble

For a short while after Bill Gates was branded an innovation-stifling monopolist, the world's richest and arguably most powerful man looked like he might be willing to give up some ground. Minutes after getting word on Nov. 5 that a U.S. judge had ruled that Microsoft Corp. is a monopoly—and an abusive and destructive one at that—Gates distributed a videotape on which he sounded almost sorry. "We hope we can find a way to resolve this," Gates said, prompting pundits to suggest the software genius was ready to make a deal with trust-busting federal bureaucrats.

Three hours later, however, Gates had already bounced back. During a news conference at Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Wash., he stressed that Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson's landmark decision is "just one step in an ongoing legal process." Gates reminded his audience of Microsoft's success in appealing such rulings in the past. And a few days later, in front of cheering shareholders at the company's annual meeting, Gates identified the territory for which he is prepared to fight. "We are willing to go a long way to address the government's concerns," he said, but the company refuses to give up the right to add new features, especially Internet-related products and services, to its existing operating systems and software. "One of the most defensible things we've ever done is the support of the Internet in our operating system," he said. "We cannot back off on that."

Thus are the bugles of corporate warfare sounded and the battle lines drawn. Microsoft's stranglehold on the world's PC operating system business—90 per cent—is what makes it a monopoly. But it was Gates's prolonged efforts to bundle its Internet Explorer Web browser with its Windows operating system, in an effort to annihilate rival Netscape Communications Corp. and, Microsoft hoped, control access to the Internet, that gave the U.S. department of justice the ammunition to go after the company in the first place. In the wake of the groundbreaking judgment, the question now is not only what happens to Microsoft, but also how the unsinkable Gates plans to continue his aggressive Internet campaign without damaging his company's chances of beating (or advantageously settling) the antitrust rap.

Gates is certainly right about one thing. Judge Jackson's ruling is just the first in a long list of legal decisions that could stretch on well into the next century. The antitrust case to which it is being compared—AT&T Corp.—lasted 10 years; the telephone monopoly was finally carved up into the now-legendary "Baby Bells." Does Microsoft face the same fate? Possibly—but it will be years away. Having declared the company a monopoly, Jackson must decide whether Microsoft has violated antitrust law. This ruling is expected to be handed down later this year or early in 2000, after which the department of justice will decide what needs to be done to punish the perpetrator and fix the problem. The company could be divided up into smaller companies that are already being dubbed "Baby Bills." Observers are betting that before he lets that happen, Gates will appeal all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. On the other hand, he could decide that it is in his interest to settle.

Whether Gates is cut down to size, or merely forced to play by other peoples' rules for a while, everyone, it seems, may be better off. "This will be positive for business and for consumers," says Andrew McCreath, a Toronto-based fund manager for Synergy Asset Management Inc. "This entity is so large—any effort to shrink or curtail it is going to make the market much more competitive." McCreath and others point to the stock market for signs of who specifically is expected to benefit. Remarkably, Microsoft survived relatively unscathed: like Gates, the share price was slightly depressed for a few days after the Jackson ruling, but closed the week up $3.47 at $133.95 on the Nasdaq exchange. At the same time, Microsoft's longtime competitors and future challengers saw their market capital grow by millions. Shares in established software makers like database manager Oracle Corp. of Redwood Shores, Calif., and Ottawa-based Corel Corp. rose substantially (Corel jumped a resounding 30 per cent). Stock of Red Hat Software Inc. of Raleigh, N.C., distributor of the most popular version of the Linux PC operating system, last traded for $148.95 on the Nasdaq exchange, up from $125.73 before the Microsoft ruling.

Most observers, though, say Microsoft is likely to remain dominant in the PC operating system market. What matters now is who wins control of emerging Web-based markets. Microsoft and America Online Inc. are already engaged in what technology writers have dubbed a "holy digital war" over so-called instant messaging systems that allow PC users to run programs letting them exchange real-time e-mail and use the Internet at the same time. AOL's service now bypasses conventional browsers—and has the potential to replace PC operating systems entirely—making it a major new threat for Microsoft. In a move that seems reminiscent of Gates's decision to squash Netscape by giving away the Explorer browser, the company has responded by announcing that it might fight back with free or low-cost Internet access.

Where Gates is really expected to concentrate his attack is in the looming battle for the consumer electronics market. In the post-PC world, access to the Internet will depend more on a range of personal electronic devices—such as cable television set-top boxes—than computers. Says one Toronto-based technology analyst: "This is the high-growth space"—and one where any effort to carve up Microsoft is most likely to hurt it. Because of its clout, the company can command the services of thousands of product developers to come up with consumer electronics software. A Baby Bill devoted to this particular application and facing more competition would have access to much less. This is why, observers say, Microsoft has spent so much money expanding its ownership of wireless, cable and other consumer electronics companies.

But rather than gobbling up the clever start-ups or threatening customers and competitors, large minority investments in established players may be the means by which Gates expands his customer base and influence in the future. After all, Microsoft made $11.4 billion last year; the money has to go somewhere. Last spring, the company paid $7.3 billion for three per cent of AT&T, in exchange for which the telecom behemoth promised to use Microsoft's new consumer electronics operating system in some of its TV set-top boxes. In May, Microsoft followed up with a $600-million investment in Rogers Communications Inc., of Toronto, which comes with a guarantee covering at least one million set-top boxes. Those investments come on top of at least $3.8 billion in similar deals made by Microsoft between 1997 and 1999. Within days of the monopoly ruling, moreover, Microsoft had unveiled two more: a $293-million (U.S.) investment in communications provider Teligent, followed by a Nov. 11 announcement that Microsoft will pump $146 million (U.S.) into an e-commerce alliance with Tandy Corp.'s RadioShack that will jointly promote both companies' online products and related services.

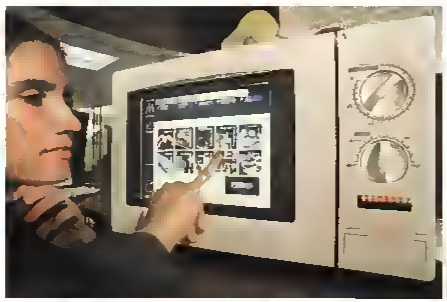
There is a growing sense that the Internet has already grown beyond Gates's grasp. This is partly because of the antitrust trial, which has prevented Microsoft from crunching competitors as it did in the past, but it is predominantly because, unlike the desktop software business, the Web is too large for any one corporation to control. And the growing consumer electronics business seems certain to be the same. Microsoft's new business partners, including Rogers, are enthusiastic about the prospects of working with Gates. "The prize in the relationship with Microsoft is not the money," says John Tory, chief executive and president of Rogers Cablesystems Ltd. "The prize is the alliance to exploit the software they are developing, so we can roll out interactive television faster than anybody in North America." True enough. But the big change from a few years ago is that Rogers, like AT&T before it, has acquired Microsoft's consumer electronics system *and* a big wad of cash, without agreeing to give Gates exclusivity. This, observers say, may be the biggest sign that the Microsoft juggernaut may indeed be reined in—if not by antitrust rulings then by a changing marketplace. m

A kitchen that cooks and surfs

Smart appliances are set to rival the PC's role

A day at home in the very near future could easily begin with a trip to the digital toilet. Equipped with electronic sensors, the porcelain of tomorrow can conduct an automated urinalysis and whisk the results to the doctor's office over the Internet. Later in the kitchen, the homeowner's voice commands the refrigerator to suggest a meal, which it does on a display screen, while noting that an ingredient is missing. Not to worry, says Tim Bajarin, a leading computer-industry analyst and futurist. The homeowner will simply add the item to a shopping list on the refrigerator's liquid-crystal display screen, and fire off an order to the online grocer. Meantime, the hungry homeowner opts for a prepackaged frozen meal and scans its bar code into the microwave to set the cooking time and power level automatically. While the food is being zapped, there's an opportunity to do a little Net surfing on the microwave's built-in display screen. All this can be done with existing technologies, says Bajarin, president of Creative Strategies Inc. in Campbell, Calif. But ask him if there's any consumer demand, and Bajarin chuckles. "Of course not," he says. "Not yet."

Powerful forces within the industry are, however, working to move the focus from personal computers to so-called information appliances offering Net access for the wired home of the next millennium. Some analysts go so far as to say that the PC's reign as a tool to access the Net is in its sunset phase. But while personal computers are not likely to disappear anytime soon, they face competition from an array of emerging technologies offering new ways to get online, whether through refrigerators, microwaves or bargain-priced flat-panel display screens designed solely to surf. These gadgets are not the stuff of science fiction, rather they are the buzz of the industry.



NCR's Microwave Bank: shopping online while zapping food

In keeping with that momentum, this week's Comdex conference in Las Vegas is running under the banner "Beyond the PC." (Comdex is considered the computer industry's pre-eminent gathering.) Tom Rhinelander, a senior analyst with Forrester Research Inc. in Cambridge, Mass., says the PC's popularity has "ridden this triple wave of being associated with work, education and the Net. All three of those capabilities," he says, "are going to be spread out among other devices now."

In several cases, these technologies have already arrived. Smart toilets to measure blood-alcohol levels, for example, exist in Japanese bars, says Bajarin, a member of Comdex's advisory board. What's more, no great leap is required to take their design a step further to develop a diagnostic bowl linked to the Net. Bajarin firmly believes that within three years the number of information appliances sold will dwarf PC sales.

Not surprisingly, household appliance manufacturers see the kitchen, the hub of home activity, as the place to access the Net and, by extension, spread the reach of electronic commerce. To this end, NCR Corp.'s Knowledge Lab in London has developed a prototype called the Microwave Bank, which should cost about $500 and will combine online shopping and banking with e-mailing and watching TV. Frigidaire Home Products of Augusta, Ga., on the other hand, has built a concept refrigerator with a touch-screen, flat-panel monitor mounted in the door that can be used to access the Net, shop online and play video games. Frigidaire says the unit "creates unlimited possibilities to make life easier."

Jon Katz, manager of advanced product development for GE Appliances in Louisville, Ky., plays his trade secrets closer to his chest. That's because General Electric is gearing up for a major splash at the National Association of Home Builders conference in Dallas in January, where GE will introduce a line of speech-recognition appliances. Researchers working on GE's smart-appliance project, internally dubbed the Jetson project, have devised an appliance—Katz won't say what kind—with a removable, cordless display screen to surf the Net. "You'll be completely wireless," says Katz, "like a cordless telephone." The question now is whether consumers will warm to the e-fridge.

Danylo Hawaleshka
(dhawaleshka@macleans.ca)

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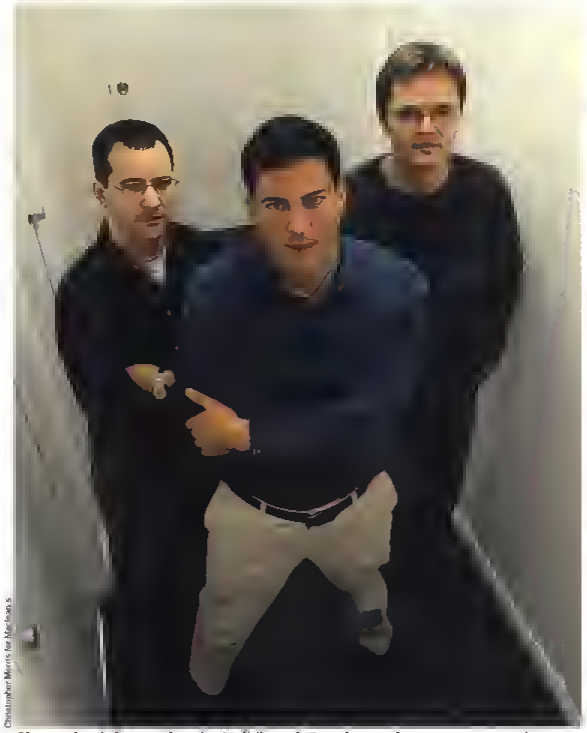
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Shaking up the ad world

Chris Staples and his partners left a top Vancouver agency to set up shop on their own

By Jennifer Hunter



Christopher Morris for Maclean's

Shepansky (left), Staples, Grais 'The rule is to leave when you are on top'

The first thing to know about 38-year-old advertising whiz Chris Staples is this: two years ago, at the Marketing Awards in Toronto, Staples, the national creative director of Palmer Jarvis DDB, collected so many trophies for his Vancouver firm the table collapsed under the weight, spewing a volcano of champagne glasses, cutlery and plates into the air. The second thing to know is that at the British Columbia Lotus Awards, also in 1997, Palmer Jarvis was nominated for such a slew of honours the ceremony's hosts arranged for a chair onstage especially for Staples—so he wouldn't have to keep walking to the podium. This year, Staples and his creative team at Palmer Jarvis won a Gold Lion, one of the top prizes at the Cannes International Advertising Festival in France, and the first one in the television category for Canada in the past 18 years.

Despite all these honours, in October Staples made a fateful decision. He left his job at Palmer Jarvis, and a salary in the six figures, to start his own company, Rethink Communications Inc. From Palmer Jarvis's Vancouver office, he took with him Ian Grais, 32, the award-winning creative director, and Tom Shepansky, 37, the director of client services. (The three men will be equal partners in the new business.) In Toronto, it is quite routine for creative directors to jump ship every few years, but Vancouver is far less volatile. So news that Staples was leaving Palmer Jarvis—where he had worked for nearly 10 years—shook up the advertising industry across Canada. "People were really surprised," reports Alvin Wasserman, president of Vancouver advertising agency Wasserman and Partners Inc. "About four minutes after he resigned, I got five calls about it." Despite the buzz it created, Stan Sutter, editor of Toronto-based *Marketing Magazine*, said ad people are questioning Staples' move. "They wonder whether Palmer Jarvis can operate without Chris," Sutter says, "or whether Chris can operate without Palmer Jarvis."

Staples directed the crew of creative people at Palmer Jarvis's Vancouver and Toronto offices, and won accolades for off-the-wall campaigns such as the Humungous Bank, in which the B.C.-based Richmond Savings credit union poked fun at the arcane bureaucracy of the chartered banks. After its ads began to run, the credit union's business grew by more than 50 per cent. "It broke every rule in financial services advertising," says Staples. "It used humour and it used radio, not television, to do it." Another campaign turned the selling of shampoo on its frothy head. In a series of Finesse commercials for Lever Pond's of Toronto, there are no gorgeous



models flipping their shiny manes, just regular-looking guys in a men's self-help group. In the one that won at Cannes, a man reads an embarrassingly bad poem about his wife: "Your hair is your best feature because it's more or less the colour of my workbench." Before the ads, Finesse's Canadian sales had been in the doldrums, but after, they went up 15 per cent, says Rob Guenette, Lever Pond's director of hair care.

Despite their winning streak, Staples, Grais and Shepansky say it was time to move on. "The oldest rule in the book," says Staples, "is to leave when you are on top." Not only had they helped boost Palmer Jarvis into the top ranks of Canadian advertising agencies over the past five years, they are all still in their 30s, a good age to take the plunge and work for themselves. Another factor in their decision was that New York City-based DDB Worldwide Communications Group Inc., a division of Omnicom Group Inc., bought Palmer Jarvis two years ago. While Staples acknowledges his creative group did some of their best work after the sale, they were starting to feel some constraints. "When you're part of a multinational network you have to meet their profit expectations," he says.



Ads from Staples' crew at Palmer Jarvis for Kootenay Savings, Why Eyewear (right); and McDonald's (below): 'the tool of choice is humour'

Understandably, the crew at Palmer Jarvis—the largest advertising agency in the West—is smarting a bit. "Chris is probably the best all-round advertising person I've seen in my life," says executive vice-president of creative strategies Ron Woodall. "His leaving is not unusual, though. It's sort of like sports, the superstars want to go off and fly on their own." Adds Frank Palmer, president of Palmer Jarvis: "We're a strong company and business goes on." Staples and the others have already been replaced and the Palmer Jarvis crew has successfully wooed national accounts such as Budweiser beer.



Other clients are not as committed since Staples' departure, most notably the Bay. The department-store chain employed Palmer Jarvis for this year's Christmas advertising and now says it is shopping the account. It cited the distance between Vancouver and Toronto, but spokeswoman Shawna Rossi also conceded Staples' resignation was a factor. "It would be fair to say since the team hired to work on our project is no longer there, it is one of the reasons we decided to open up the bidding for our account."

How did a young man who grew up in tiny Devon, Alta., just south of Edmonton, and went to Carleton journalism school, make such big news in the advertising world? Staples says even as a 12-year-old he dreamed of creating ads, and after university talked his way into a job with an Edmonton agency. Seven years ago, three years after he had moved to Vancouver to become a lowly copy writer at Palmer Jarvis, Frank Palmer decided to change the agency's direction. It was, in Woodall's no-punches-pulled term, "the cesspool of creative agencies," and Palmer aimed to turn it into a creative powerhouse. "Frank had had a lot of financial success, but he was looking to give the agency a little respect and caché for its product," Woodall says. The two men recognized "a nugget of talent" in Staples, Palmer says, and so he was promoted to creative director in Vancouver. The first attention-grabbing campaign Staples' crew produced was for Greyhound Air. The television shot of a greyhound dog peeing on a jumbo jet caught public attention, even if Greyhound Air never did take off.

Staples is hoping some of Palmer's business acumen will rub off on the guys at Rethink. "It's hard not to catch some of Frank Palmer's entrepreneurial spirit," he says. Still, Rethink aims to do things very differently than Palmer Jarvis and that is immediately noticeable when one enters the office in a down-at-the-heels building near Vancouver's business district. The floor is laid with Astroturf and there is a Ping-Pong table in the boardroom instead of a slab of oak. Some walls are covered with blackboard paint and scrawled with slogans: "Trust your gut" and "I will not join a multinational network." There are even ties to a small Copenhagen advertising firm, called Rethink Copenhagen—ideas will be shared via the Internet.

Staples et al did not take any accounts when they left Palmer Jarvis. In the past three weeks, since the business has started, the team has attracted a few Internet clients and is working on creating its own brands such as Rethink beer, teaming up with a Kelowna brewer. "Too many ads are neutral or they annoy you," Staples says. "We try and get a visceral reaction from people and the tool of choice for us is humour." Rethink partner Grais says audiences are more sophisticated than many advertisers believe. The Rethink partners are aiming for *Seinfeld*-type drollness, making light of daily life to sell products. The only catch now is to attract more clients so they can deliver the jokes.

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Business Notes

Air Canada pushes its case



Milton, butting heads with Liberal senators

Forcing Calgary-based Canadian Airlines International Ltd into bankruptcy is not what Air Canada is trying to do with its conditional offer of $92 million, Air Canada president Robert Milton told the Senate transportation committee. At times butting heads with senators, he defended the Montreal-based airline's offer. "I am willing to fix Canadian Airlines. If the country doesn't want me to fix Canadian, all right. I won't fix Canadian."

Milton's demeanour did not sit well with some committee members. Liberal Senator Michael Kirby, who called Milton "extremely arrogant," said Air Canada's offer has so many conditions attached it seems designed to fail. "Pardon me for saying this, but I'm not sure that Air Canada is not still following the strategy it's been on for a decade, which is fundamentally that the bankruptcy of Canadian is the preferred alternative," Kirby told Milton.

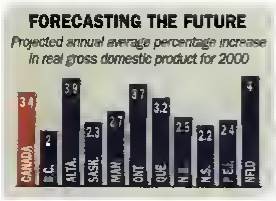
Transport Minister David Collenette, meanwhile, indicated he now favours Air Canada's solution. Speaking with reporters, Collenette did, however, concede that Canadian consumers can expect to see fewer seat sales with just one national carrier.

Short-changing Albertans on royalties?

An economic think-tank at the University of Alberta accused Premier Ralph Klein of giving up $20 billion in oil royalties between 1992 and 1997. According to the Parkland Institute, Alaska and Norway were able to maintain a thriving oil industry while collecting more money per barrel of oil during the same period. But Klein said low royalties, used to stimulate development, will rise as company production costs fall. "We will get our pound of flesh at the end of the day," Klein said. "This is a royalty holiday. This is not forgiveness of royalties."

Financial outlook

Newfoundland, powered by the offshore oil industry, will be the darling of the Canadian economy in 1999, with a projected growth in gross domestic product of 5.6 per cent, according to an international economic review from the Bank of Montreal. The province will also lead all others in the coming year, with GDP growth of four per cent, though unemployment will remain high at 16 per cent. British Columbia will trail all provinces in 1999 with just 0.6-per-cent growth, hobbled by an anemic resource sector, and will be last again next year with a GDP hike of two per cent. The Canadian economy as a whole, however, is poised for strong growth, with GDP expected to climb by 3.4 per cent in 2000.



A grand gas find

Husky Oil Ltd. announced the North White Rose field on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland contains two trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas —roughly the amount that spurred development of the Sable Island field off Nova Scotia. The Calgary-based oil company, which owns 75 per cent of the White Rose project, also said tests show that the South field can produce at least 5,575 barrels of oil a day.

Hands across the border

Quebec and Ontario reached a deal to end a 30-year dispute over the rights of construction workers to work on each other's turf. Quebec Labour Minister Diane Lemieux confirmed the agreement, but did not provide details.

More layoffs at Nortel

Nortel Networks Corp. chief executive John Roth told 400 New York City investment analysts the Brampton, Ont.-based company could soon eliminate up to 1,000 jobs. The cuts, most likely in the payroll, human resources and finance departments, are part of a radical restructuring Canada's largest high-tech company announced earlier this year as part of its plans to transform itself from a manufacturer of high-tech hardware to a virtual "solutions provider" focusing on software and services.

Not quite in the can

Switzerland's competition commission approved the proposed merger of Montreal-based Alcan Aluminium Ltd. and two rivals, Pechiney of France and Algroup of Switzerland. The deal, which would create a global aluminum giant with annual sales of $32.3 billion, still requires approval from a further 22 regulatory bodies.

IMF head steps down

The International Monetary Fund's French director Michel Camdessus, 66, announced he is stepping down in mid-February for personal reasons. The multinational lending agency's 24-member executive is expected to select a successor for the post, traditionally held by a European, before the end of the year.

Advertising Supplement

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Steven J.P. Comeau and Michael-Andreas Kuttner, heads of *Collideascope Digital Productions* and winners of the 1998 Business Development Bank of Canada's (BDC) Young Entrepreneur Award for Nova Scotia, with their mentor, Wendy Paquette, the President and Chief Executive Officer of MT&T. *Collideascope* creates and markets original projects, which is where the future of the business lies. Inroads have already been made in this direction with the recent sale of "Tongue Twister," one of the company's projects, to Teletoon, Canada's cartoon network, and also to MTV.

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Canada

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS

All across the country, young entrepreneurs are actively preparing tomorrow's business world, the engine that will drive the Canadian economy in the new century. With their foresight, flair, and determination, these young people are a fine example for their generation and are laying the foundation for business growth in Canada. ■ For the past 12 years, young businessmen and businesswomen from every province and territory have seen their efforts and achievements honoured at the prestigious Young Entrepreneur Awards. ■ The following pages trace a profile of this year's winners and their companies, providing us a closer look at these extraordinary young people who, even before the age of 30, have established themselves as leaders in their industries.



Building the Future Today

Young Canadian entrepreneurs are playing a more important role than ever in developing the small business sector. Showing foresight and imagination, they are building prosperous companies and making a significant contribution to our economy by adopting innovative growth strategies and closely following market trends.

In addition to their determination, dedication and motivation, what really sets young entrepreneurs apart is their flair and ability to identify promising marketing gaps. And this year's winners, who represent a variety of fields, including communications, multimedia, manufacturing and information technology, are no exception.

For example, in Nunavut—which, we should point out, is represented for the first time—Uqsiq Communications, a graphic design and visual communications company, offers not only marketing and multimedia services, it also provides consultancy services to the Inuit community. Although the company founded by Kirt Eliza Kootoo Ejesrak is not the only one offering these services, his firm differs from the others in that it is entirely Inuit-run, enabling him to fine-tune his message to the needs of his clients.

In certain instances, the ability to surmount an obstacle can propel a company. This was the case with Paul Wareham who had to overcome the perception that a small high-tech business operating outside a large metropolitan area could not achieve big league success. Today, Cape Breton's own DynaGen Systems has developed a technology that has taken the industry by storm.

How can one not mention the achievements of two young people who started a company that has introduced the wonders of science to some 30 million schoolchildren around the world? With 107 franchises in 16 different countries, The Mad Science Group, founded by brothers Ariel and Ron Shlien, has developed a highly effective formula for capturing children's interest in science—an important accomplishment in today's world.

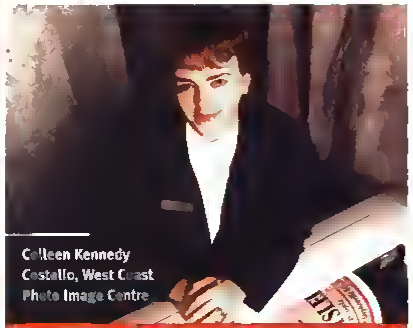
The Young Entrepreneur Awards were created over 10 years ago by the Business Development Bank of Canada as part of Small Business Week. They honour the achievements of Canadian businesspeople aged 18 to 30. Thirteen prizes in all are handed out, one for each province and territory.

Every year, the selection committee is faced with the challenge of choosing the winners from among many candidates, a particularly difficult task considering that, to our minds, all the candidates are winners. These young people have chosen to run the greatest possible risk—banking all on one idea and persevering in an increasingly complex and competitive world.

The Young Entrepreneur Awards are linked to the Mentor Program under which each winner is matched with a business professional. The one-year program seeks to encourage the participation of the business community and stimulate the growth of young companies by offering the practical advice and support of a businessperson familiar with the challenges with which they are faced. The mentors admit to gaining a lot from this experience, but they nevertheless deserve our sincere gratitude for sharing one of the greatest possible riches—their time!

In the following pages, you will learn more about the young men and women who are living out their dreams. I am convinced you will join me in congratulating them, because with these successful entrepreneurs at the helm, Canada is ready to take on the new millennium.

President and CEO
Jean Schaoden



Colleen Kennedy Costello, West Coast Photo Image Centre

NEWFOUNDLAND

A Rapidly Developing Firm

Colleen Kennedy Costello, aged 29, is vice president and owner of West Coast Photo Image Centre, a Kodak photo centre in Corner Brook specializing in film development and printing for the general public and big companies. Costello holds a degree in photography and has always had a keen interest in the field. As a result of her tenacity and determination, in 1996, she founded her own company by buying out a traditional film development and print shop.

Today, the staff of eight at West Coast Photo Image Centre offers much more than just conventional photo developing and printing services. They also specialize in digital imaging and sales of photographic equipment and accessories. In fact, Costello was quick to invest in cutting-edge digital technology to offer her customers the best possible service. This strategic decision has transformed her Corner Brook store into one of the biggest suppliers and retailers of digital cameras in Atlantic Canada. In February, 1999, Costello was showing a 56-per cent increase in sales over the previous year.

Mentor
Newfoundland

Mr. J. Wayne Trask, president and CEO of Lafarge Gypsum Canada Inc. of Corner Brook, Nfld., is Colleen Kennedy Costello's mentor. Mr. Trask is an experienced senior executive with an outstanding track record in management and a long history of community involvement.

In the beginning, Costello had to contend with secondhand equipment that she worked hard to bring up to her very high standards. She also had to find qualified local staff who knew how to work with digital imaging—a considerable challenge in itself!

Branching out into other services has boosted growth at West Coast Photo Image Centre. But Costello has no intention of resting on her laurels. "I want to become a leader in introducing new imaging technology and services," she explains. "Soon, we will start using the new Kodak Photo Net Online system, available over the Internet," noted Costello. And with cutting edge technology, the learning never stops.

"I always have to keep my equipment and my photography knowledge up-to-date," she added. With a goal like that and given the breakneck pace of technological change in photography, Costello should keep very busy indeed.



Paul Wareham, DynaGen Systems Inc.

NOVA SCOTIA

Leading-Edge Technology Guarantees Startup, Every Time

Paul Wareham admits quite frankly that when he founded DynaGen Systems Inc., financial institutions and potential customers were not convinced Cape Breton Island could produce a superior calibre firm. "We changed this negative perception with our products and services, and our growing reputation."

And a well-deserved reputation it is! DynaGen Systems Inc. develops and markets AutoStart Engine Controllers—microprocessors that automatically monitor engine operation and that can be used to start generator engines or keep them operating when a loss or disturbance of the normal source occurs. The technology DynaGen Systems has developed is so high performing that even the United States Army uses many of its products.

Wareham, 28, holds a degree in electronic and electrical engineering. He founded his company with two clear goals in mind—to create new products and to contribute to economic growth in his home region of Cape Breton Island. "I had worked in Toronto before, but deep down, I always wanted to work and live in my home area. Now I've got my wish. We're a team of 17 Cape Breton Islanders with unique products to sell that are used throughout the United States."

Mentor
Nova Scotia

Mr. Anthony Cassetta, president and COO of Fundy Communications, in Saint John, N.B., is Paul's mentor. Fundy Communications is an integrated provider of communications and entertainment services in the Maritimes. The company offers individual and business customers a wide range of communications and entertainment options. The company has grown to become Atlantic Canada's largest television entertainment provider. The company employs more than 500 staff.

DynaGen Systems Inc. gets most of its sales from exports. With demand for his products continually rising, Paul is looking to the future with optimism. He now has his eye on China and India, two countries with great potential, and he is not the slight-

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est bit put off by the distance. "We're already geographically removed from most of our customers, so our shipping costs are higher." What sets the company apart? DynaGen Systems' competitive advantage lies in its fully electronic technology, which gives it a leg up over other products on the market.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Making a Good Impression Makes All the Difference



PRINTER WORKS IS A CHARLOTTETOWN firm specializing in the sale and service of printers and printer parts. The young company, which posted annual growth of over 50 per cent between 1995 and 1998, and whose sales this year are up 40 per cent, is the authorized distributor of two leading brands of printers for Prince Edward Island.

Company owner Mark McLane, 29, gained his first experience in management at his student union's entertainment centre, before founding Printer Works in 1993 during his final year at the University of Prince Edward Island, where he studied business administration.

Where many companies choose to diversify their operations, Printer Works opted instead to specialize, with one precise objective in mind—provide customers with the best products and the most reliable service at all times. This decision has resulted in higher quality service and placed the company in the pole position in its industry.

"Staying on the cutting edge is a constant challenge and concern," explained McLane. "My team and I must continually work at maintaining a high level of knowledge and performance. Given the competitive nature of our market, we must constantly strive to add value to our products and services so we can hold on to and increase our customer base."

Despite his genuine pride in the company's success, the owner does not see himself as a one man show at all. "Since the very beginning, the success of Printer Works has been inextricably linked to the quality of its people, who have supported me all the way."

MENTOR
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr Philip A. Acorn, president and chief operating officer of Island Telecom Inc. in Charlottetown, P.E.I., is Mark McLane's mentor. Mr. Acorn has worked for Island Telecom for 30 years, where he held a variety of positions before being named president and COO. Mr Acorn is also a director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.



NEW BRUNSWICK

Four-Season Tents



IN 1985, TEENAGERS ALLEN AND Tim McCandless started Commercial Tent Rentals & Sales Ltd., by renting out the small tents their father used for his work. Who would have guessed then that the organizers of this year's Sommet de la Francophonie in Moncton would come calling?

Allen McCandless, 28, and his brother Tim, 24, are respectively president and vice-president of Commercial Tent Rentals & Sales in Sussex. Today, their firm manufactures, sells and rents tents and accessories for all kinds of occasions. The only manufacturer of its kind in the Atlantic provinces, the company employs 18 part-time and six full-time employees and in 1998 posted a 50-per cent increase in sales over the previous year.

"The biggest obstacle was and remains the seasonal nature of our business," explains Allen. But by manufacturing their own tents, the McCandless brothers—attain two objectives at once—not only are they able to maintain a number of full time employees during the winter, but they also reduce costs since they no longer have to buy their tents elsewhere.

Many factors explain the McCandless brothers' success. They were the first to develop the tent market in the Maritimes. Their central geographic location made it possible to serve all four Atlantic provinces. And customers enjoy the peace of mind of round-the-clock service.

MENTOR
NEW BRUNSWICK

The Honourable André Ouellet, chairman of the board and interim chief executive officer at Canada Post Corp. and chairman of the board of Purolator Courier Ltd., is Allen and Tim McCandless's mentor. Before coming to Canada Post, Mr. Ouellet was active in federal politics for nearly 30 years, providing valuable assistance to three prime ministers and holding down key portfolios.



QUEBEC

Madcap Scientists Capture the Interest of Kids



WHAT WOULD YOU THINK OF A company that sends madcap scientists all around the world to schools, children's camps, community centres, parties and scout troops, just to spark a curiosity about science in children? "Madness!," you'd say. But that's exactly what Ariel, 30, and Ron Shlien, 28, president and vice-president of The Mad Science Group in Montreal, have been doing since 1985.

Performing experiments that combine bubbling potions, periscopes and indoor fireworks, the enthusiastic instructors teach young people about science and entertain them at the same time. "When we were kids, Ron and I loved doing fun scientific experiments for the other neighbourhood kids," explains Ariel Shlien. "By the time I was 12 years old, I had saved $300 working as a paperboy and bought a helium-neon laser to produce light shows for DJs." Not long after, Ariel put on a laser demonstration for some science students. The children were delighted with the show, and that is how the idea for The Mad Science Group was born.

Based on that discovery and using their creative genius, The Mad Science Group has performed demonstrations in 16 countries and with 107 franchises throughout North America, has reached millions of children worldwide. Sales topped $3 million in 1998 and are expected to hit the $4.5 million mark in 1999.

There has been no shortage of praise for the company. In 1998, U.S. President Bill Clinton honoured the Shlien brothers for their contribution to the teaching of science. They were also hailed as Young Entrepreneurs of the Year by Ernst and Young and as Best Small Business by Staples and Hammermill Paper. The brothers' objective is to see The Mad Science Group become the world leader in educational science entertainment and develop activities that reach out to children in every facet of their lives.

MENTOR
QUEBEC

Ms. Monique F. Leroux, senior vice-president, Quebec, Royal Bank Financial Group, is Ariel and Ron Shlien's mentor. A seasoned manager, Ms. Leroux heads up all Bank operations in Quebec, including account-holder and business services. Ms. Leroux is also a member of numerous boards of directors, including the Royal Bank and the Conseil du Patronat du Québec.



ONTARIO

A Smart Ball from a Smart Businessman



ZAKUTIN TECHNOLOGIES INC. IN Waterloo markets the Radar Ball, a baseball that actually measures the speed of pitches. The idea of developing a speed-sensitive ball came to 27-year-old Dave Zakutin five years before the creation of the company, just as he was finishing high school. It wasn't until 1996, after having completed a degree in mechanical engineering that he actually held the first Radar Ball in his hands. From that time on, everything moved very quickly.

The decisive moment came when Zakutin obtained a licence from Rawlings Sporting Goods Co. The official recognition from Rawlings, which holds the biggest market share in the baseball supply industry, enabled Zakutin to launch his company and gave his product the kind of distribution it needed. In 1998, the Radar Ball was named Sporting Goods Product of the Year by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association and most major league baseball clubs now use it for pitcher training and rehabilitation.

One of the biggest challenges for Zakutin was getting the licence from Rawlings and proving to them he could produce and deliver the product on time. Another major challenge was dealing with his supplier in Taiwan. A true entrepreneur, Zakutin devoted 10 hours a week studying Chinese.

His efforts have paid off. Zakutin Technologies posted revenues of $364,019 in 1998, an 873-per cent increase over the preceding and first year of operations. The company still has no direct competitors. Zakutin is planning on putting his creative talents to use again to develop a softball version of Radar Ball, as well as other products for different age and skill levels.

MENTOR
ONTARIO

Mr. Paul Jones, the publisher of *Maclean's*, Canada's weekly newsmagazine, and senior vice-president responsible for the news and business group of Rogers Media, which also publishes *Canadian Business*, *PROFIT* and *MoneySense*, is Dave Zakutin's mentor. Mr Jones also chairs the Canadian Information Productivity Awards and is the treasurer of Magazines Canada.



Kirt Eliza Kootoo Ejesiak, Uqsiq Communications

NUNAVUT

A Communications Company With Strong Roots

"I WAS YOUNG, I HAD NO EQUIPMENT, and I didn't have enough money to start my own company. Keeping my spirits up was often a struggle, but giving up was never an option for me. I proved I was able to meet my goals and succeed."

Those are the words of Kirt Eliza Kootoo Ejesiak, 30, president and creative director of Uqsiq Communications, the only entirely Inuit-run visual communications and graphic design firm.

Uqsiq Communications has grown steadily since its founding and, in 1998, it posted sales of $375,000. The firm, which employs two full-time and two part-time workers, is very diversified, offering multimedia, print production, marketing, and consultancy services to Inuit wishing to start their own businesses. It is also involved in the ecotourism industry. Before creating his company, Kootoo Ejesiak, who holds a degree in science from Acadia University in Nova Scotia, was president of Inuit Sea Kayaking Adventures, an ecotourism firm specializing in kayaking expeditions around Baffin Island.

What truly sets Uqsiq Communications apart is its 100 per cent cultural roots in the Inuit community. There are other companies that provide communications services to the Inuit population, but Uqsiq prides itself at being able to respond to the needs and demands of its clientele, of which 80 per cent comes from Inuit organizations and the remainder being clients from the government. "I created my own company to offer my customers better service than the competition and to set up a first-class firm offering the best expertise in communications," explains Kirt. Current success has led him to consider opening new offices in Nunavut as well as in Toronto and Ottawa.

MENTOR
NUNAVUT

Mr. Robert Lyle Hanson, president of R.L. Hanson Construction Ltd. in Iqaluit, Nunavut, is Kirt Eliza Kootoo Ejesiak's mentor. The family operated, 100-per cent Inuit-owned company has been in business since 1982. Mr. Hanson is very involved in the business world in Canada's North, where he sits on several boards of directors, including the local chamber of commerce, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Rotary Club. He was also a founding member of the Science Institute and Arctic College.



Chris Bond and Ken Zorniak, Frantic Films

MANITOBA

Hollywood, Manitoba

SOME WOULD SAY THAT NOWADAYS all roads lead to multimedia—provided, that is, you travel all the roads! Co-founders Chris Bond and Ken Zorniak of Frantic Films in Winnipeg are certainly proof of that.

Upon graduation from the University of Manitoba's School of Fine Arts, Chris Bond, the 28-year-old president and creative director of Frantic Films, bought himself a powerful computer and began working first as a freelancer, then as a 3-D animator, then later as a 3-D animation instructor at a college. In 1997, he started his business producing 3-D animation and special effects for television and film. Along the way, he shared his enthusiasm with Ken Zorniak. After completing a degree in management at the University of Manitoba, Ken, aged 29, worked in various capacities in human resources before starting part time at Frantic Films. Later he would join the firm in a full-time capacity as vice-president and producer.

In 1998–1999, Frantic Films posted a 360-per cent increase in sales over the previous year. The company's clients include TV stations, advertising agencies and film production companies. Frantic Films was nominated for a 1999 Emmy Award for its work on the Stephen King miniseries, *Storm of the Century*, broadcast on ABC.

A number of factors explain the success of Frantic Films. First, it is the only local multimedia company. Second, the film industry is on a steady upswing, as is demand for special effects. Third, lower overhead in Manitoba enables Frantic Films to devote more resources to the production of high-quality visual effects.

MENTOR
MANITOBA

Mr. Marc LeFrançois, chairman of the board of Via Rail Canada Inc. since 1993, is Chris Bond's and Ken Zorniak's mentor. Since his arrival at Via Rail, Mr. LeFrançois has transformed and revitalized the rail service, enabling the company to serve the same number of localities as in 1993, but more frequently and at lower cost. Before becoming chairman of Via Rail, Mr. LeFrançois was with the Macyro Industrial Group, which he founded in 1973.



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SASKATCHEWAN

MARKET STUDIES WITH A HIGH-TECH TWIST

INTERACTIVE TRACKING SYSTEMS INC of Saskatoon is one of the first companies in the world to specialize in market research over the Internet. President Daniel Weber, 28, holds a degree in environmental science with a major in economics. He began his career with a consulting firm, where he learned how to conduct market studies. While working for the firm, he started a Web site design company in his spare time. In March, 1996, he decided to devote himself full time to his company. Vice-president Garnette Weber, 26, holds a degree in physiotherapy. She worked for two years in a hospital while shouldering responsibility for accounting and management at the new firm. In 1998, Garnette began working full time at Interactive Tracking Systems Inc. to develop an international marketing plan with Daniel.

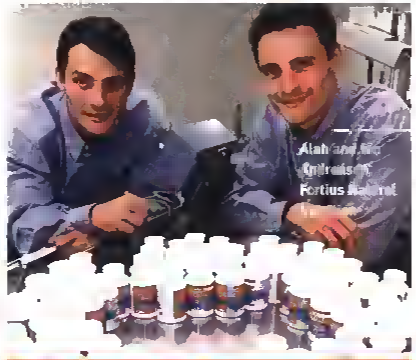
"We knew there was a potential for using the Internet as a market research tool," explained Daniel. "I talked about my idea at the consulting firm where I was working, but I quickly realized that it wasn't part of their future plans. The only way to get our idea off the ground was to found our own company."

MENTOR
SASKATCHEWAN

Ms. Kimberley D. South, vice-president and CEO of the Skinner Group of Companies in Yorkton, Sask., is Daniel and Garnette Weber's mentor. Among other things, the group is active in cable TV, real estate and equipment rentals. Ms. South, who has been with the company since 1982, is also vice-chair of the Canadian Cable Systems Alliance.

The company has really taken off. In 1999, income stood at $361,400 for January through September, a 350 per cent increase in nine months. The firm boasts clients like AT&T, Harris Interactive, and IBM, and does virtually all of its business in the United States.

Since it is located in Saskatoon, Interactive Tracking Systems is able to offer more competitive rates than companies in bigger cities. In fact, the few direct competitors it does have are not located in Canada, but New York City and California.



ALBERTA

A DOUBLE RATION OF ENERGY

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN TWIN brothers with degrees in microbiology and immunology decide to go into business? Answer: Fortius Natural Nutrition. The Calgary-based company, established in 1996, specializes in the development of nutritional products for humans, pets and livestock.

Fortius Natural Nutrition first hit the market three years ago with only two products. Today, it has 32. Last summer alone, the company developed 18 new products! In Canada, Fortius Natural Nutrition products can be found on the shelves of supermarkets like Loblaws and Superstore. Alan and Ian have also negotiated agreements with various distributors, who sell their products under different names. It is hardly surprising then that the company's sales in 1998 hit $921,208, a 396 per cent increase over the previous year.

Mind you, the 29 year old tandem had an impressive track record before ever going into business. From 1992 to 1996, Alan worked as a consultant for a feed manufacturer in Switzerland. Later, the two brothers each had a 25-per cent stake in Smarte Laboratories International Inc., where they worked with doctors from Germany, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia and the Netherlands to address patent blood problems through the use of nutritional supplements.

MENTOR
ALBERTA

Mr. Art Froehlich, president of AdFarm, an Alberta firm specializing in agricultural marketing and advertising, is Alan and Ian Andreasen's mentor. Mr. Froehlich is highly respected in his field, possessing over 20 years' agriculture and business experience in Canada as well as in the United States, South America, Asia and Europe.

Their biggest challenge today? Managing a highly diversified company. "It's hard to know what to focus on to ensure our company is profitable and continues to grow," explains Alan. "Making choices involves turning your back on certain opportunities, which is harder to do than you might think."

And the marketplace is not exactly barren. Many companies have been in the field for a long time and boast annual sales in the tens—and even hun-

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dreds—of millions of U.S. dollars. Fortius Natural Nutrition may seem like David against Goliath, but its constant efforts to develop new products using new technologies give it the vitality to face the future with confidence



Susan Ireland, Click It!

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SIMPLY CLICK IT!

CLICK IT!, FOUNDED BY SUSAN Ireland in Yellowknife, is the only company in the Northwest Territories to offer computer training courses in such popular software as Word, Excel, Power Point and Windows. The company uses its own training guides and invites clients to call in for free advice whenever they want after attending courses.

Susan studied business administration and later worked in information technology. Showing determination, she founded her own company in June, 1997. "I wanted to create a work environment where I could pursue my own goals and dreams without the constraints and limits of an employer-employee relationship."

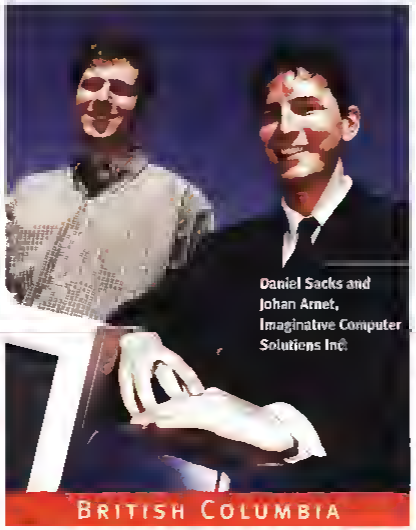
Click It! was a resounding success from the word go. In 1997—its first year of operations—the company posted sales of $44,409. In 1998, sales soared to $196,433, a 221-per cent increase. The government of the Northwest Territories represents 80 per cent of its business and the firm has three full-time workers

One of the greatest strengths of Click It! is that it uses its own training guides as a basis for its courses. Sales of these manuals account for some 15 per cent of the company's income. Ireland is currently seeking Microsoft endorsement for her manuals. She also plans on hiring new employees and expanding her company by offering courses in a broader range of computer programs.

Click It! had to struggle hard to succeed, particularly in the beginning, when Susan had to convince the financial institutions to take a young woman entrepreneur seriously. "Some banks were even asking for my husband's signature on transactions. I had to really motivate myself to carry on at times. Now, when I'm faced with a decision, I ask myself, 'Will this help my company grow?' If the answer is yes, I do it," explained Ireland.

MENTOR
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Gordon Stewart, president and CEO of Braden-Burry Expediting Ltd. in Yellowknife, N.W.T., is Susan Ireland's mentor. His company offers logistical services to mining exploration companies in Canada's North. His 30 years of experience delivering essential goods led to Mr. Stewart's being selected Businessman of the Year by the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce.



Daniel Sacks and Johan Arnet, Imaginative Computer Solutions Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

COMPUTER SOLUTIONS WITH AN IMAGINATIVE TOUCH

THERE ARE DOZENS OF COMPUTER stores in British Columbia. But when Daniel Sacks and Johan Arnet—respectively president and vice-president of North Vancouver's Imaginative Computer Solutions Inc.—founded their company, they had a very clear idea of what they wanted to achieve. "In the computer industry, companies often neglect customer service and focus only on the technology side," explains Sacks. That's how they came up with the idea of offering a full range of services, namely Internet connections, Web site hosting, custom assembly of business computers, including software installation and maintenance, and outstanding, round-the-clock customer service.

The company founded by Sacks, 23, and Arnet, 24, was launched with a $6,000 initial investment, and has experienced extraordinary growth. It posted earnings of $1.5 million in 1998 and anticipates sales of $2 million in 1999. The firm has 11 employees with an average age of 22.

"We have both been immersed in the world of computers almost since we took our

MENTOR
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. William G. Gibson, president, Western Region, for Rogers Cantel Inc., is Daniel Sacks' and Johan Arnet's mentor. Upon his arrival at Rogers Cantel Inc. in March, 1998, Mr. Gibson already had over 25 years' experience in telecommunications. He has occupied various key positions in leading telecom firms in both Canada and the United States. He also holds an MBA from Georgia State University in Atlanta and BSc in economics from Auburn University in Alabama.



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very first steps," explains Sacks. "As we gradually became more knowledgeable, we realized that our interest in computers could surely help us earn some money during high school. But we never thought it would decide our futures."

The two entrepreneurs began by offering computer consulting services to small businesses that were not in a position to hire their own full time technicians. Then, in December, 1994, when they were 18 and 19 years old, they founded their own company. In the beginning, because of their age, suppliers lacked confidence in them and always asked to be paid in cash. The two entrepreneurs were forced to show considerable audacity and determination. "Despite the difficulties we encountered, we persevered and succeeded," states Sacks with great satisfaction.



COLLECTING CUSTOMERS AROUND THE WORLD

SPORTS CARDS, MOVIE CARDS, film posters, stamps, coins, Walt Disney products, figurines, even relics—Big Grizzly Sportscards & Collectibles in Whitehorse is a collector's dream come true, whether in Yukon or anywhere else in the world. And that is not surprising, considering the unusual background of its 20-year old owner Samson Hartland, the youngest award winner this year.

With both parents hearing and speech impaired, Samson learned to sign before he even learned to speak. At six, he skipped ahead two grades at school and at 10, he got his first taste of working in retail. He would go on to work in various stores, offices, and restaurants. In January, 1998, Hartland founded Big Grizzly Sportscards & Collectibles, posting sales of $77,227 in his first year of operation. Today, the company's Web site attracts collectors from the United States, Finland, and even as far afield as Asia.

"I believe the success of my company is due to the wide variety of products it offers to tourists, Web surfers, and the children and adults of Whitehorse," explained Samson.

Despite the cyclical nature of the tourist season and the recession that hit Yukon last winter, Samson Hartland has managed to keep his company going and even found the necessary financial assistance to move and expand his premises. "That difficult period motivated me to develop a positive and confident outlook. I am convinced that with good planning and management, and an optimistic approach, my company will continue to prosper and grow. I have learned that in life, if you want something, you have to work for it."

MENTOR
YUKON
Mr. Bob Baxter, president of the Yukon Brewing Company, is Samson Hartland's mentor. In 1997, Mr. Baxter launched Yukon's first commercial brewery since the days of the Klondike Gold Rush. The company also distributes its products in Alaska, Alberta and Ontario.

Samson does not let anything stand in his way, not even success! In fact, he just founded a second company—Visual Language Interpreter Services of Yukon—offering sign language services to the legal and medical sectors. ■

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It's young business owners like these that give Canadians a chance to enjoy greater job opportunities and economic growth. We congratulate them on their success and would like to encourage even greater success for their futures by sponsoring the Mentor Program of the Young Entrepreneur Awards. Through this program, each of the 13 winning companies will have the help and support of a personal business mentor over the next year.

Our congratulations to all of this year's winners.

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Ross Laver

Tales from the trash heap

How far can you go in life with a hundred bucks and a used truck? Not far at all, unless you happen to be as resourceful as Brian Scudamore, a 29-year-old Vancouverite. The business he started 10 years ago with those meagre assets is on track to do $1.5 million in revenues this year.

Twentysomething tycoons are almost too numerous to count in the world of dot-com start-ups, but Scudamore's business has nothing to do with high technology—at least not directly. He is, to be blunt, a trash collector. When this CEO talks about junk, he's not talking about bonds.

In 1989, Scudamore was standing in line at a burger joint, wondering what he could do that summer to make money. Glancing outside, he noticed a battered pickup truck in the drive-through lane. On its side was one of those hand-painted signs. "Mark's Rubbish Removal." Scudamore didn't exactly shout "Eureka," but the sight did give him an idea.

"I thought, 'Hey, that'd be a neat business for me,'" he recalls. "I'd been looking for something I could get into easily and quickly, that wouldn't cost me a lot." Straight away, he bought a $700 used truck and spent another $100 on business cards and flyers ("We'll stash your trash in a flash!") to promote his services. Even in those early days, he showed a talent for marketing: although he worked alone, he called his firm The Rubbish Boys to make it sound larger than it really was. That summer he cleared $1,700 in profit. Trash removal is a seasonal business, which suited Scudamore's schedule. In the fall, he enrolled in a local community college, where he studied for a year before switching to a commerce program at Concordia University in Montreal. Each summer for the next three years, he returned to Vancouver to run the rubbish business.



Scudamore, the Fedex of junk

The turning point came in 1993 when Scudamore, who had a year left before earning his degree, decided to drop out, incorporate and go at it full time. His father, a surgeon at Vancouver General Hospital, was appalled by his son's career choice, but Scudamore felt he knew what he was doing. "I was learning more about business on the street than in the classroom," he says. Showing an appetite for expansion, he invested in more trucks and hired four crews of two men each. Two years later, he opened a branch operation in Victoria.

Scudamore's most important innovation lay in his approach to customer service. Because it's an easy business to get into, the junk removal trade is highly fragmented, dominated by fly-by-night operators. Scudamore was determined to set himself apart by imposing professional standards—a fleet of shiny trucks, uniformed drivers, on-time service and a printed price list that tells homeowners up front how much it's going to cost.

By 1997, The Rubbish Boys had 45 seasonal employees and had broken through the $1-million-a-year revenue barrier. That year, it was recognized by *Business in Vancouver* magazine as British Columbia's third-fastest-growing company. But Scudamore had even bigger ideas. He decided to franchise his business across North America under a new name, 1-800-GOT-JUNK? In the same way that Starbucks revolutionized the coffee business and companies like Blockbuster and Rogers Video displaced thousands of small mom-and-pop video stores, Scudamore set out to change people's expectations of the junk business. "I want to almost Fedex it," he says. "Our mission is to professionalize and standardize what has always been a low-tech industry."

Over the past two years, Scudamore says he has spent at least $250,000 on consultants, computers and customized software to develop his franchise program. The core of the operation is a centralized dispatch system. All calls to the 1-800 number are routed to a call centre in Vancouver with 12 phone lines. Once a pickup is scheduled, the order is relayed over the Internet to the local franchisee, who reconfirms with clients 15 to 30 minutes before each job. A day or two after the pickup, clients receive a call thanking them for their business and asking if the work was performed to their satisfaction. The system is designed to ensure that franchisees spend as much time as possible in the field rather than worrying about missed calls. "We want people out there driving sales and building a brand, not dealing with administration."

The company now has three franchisees, two in Toronto and one in Edmonton. Last year, it expanded into Seattle, and by 2003 it hopes to be established in each of the 30 largest metropolitan centres in North America. "My motivation is nothing but growth," says Scudamore, who relaxes by reading management books about the success of companies like Starbucks, Home Depot and others. "Nike likes to say they're a marketing company that just happens to sell shoes. That's the way I look at this company: our business is junk, but we could be in anything."

Getting all stressed out

Canadians say they have too little leisure time

Faced with growing job demands and family responsibilities, Canadians are feeling increasingly stressed—so much so that one-third of those responding to a Statistics Canada survey called themselves workaholics. In the telephone survey of nearly 11,000 Canadians over the age of 15 carried out last year, almost half the respondents in the highly stressed 25-to-44 age-group said they felt trapped in their daily routine. Only about one-quarter in that group said they planned to slow down in the coming year. The Canadians "who have the most responsibilities were also those who tended to work the longest days," the report said, adding that "the struggle to juggle" was most acute among married people with children who had full-time jobs. Men in that situation spent an average of 48.6 hours a week on paid work and work-related activities, while women spent 38.8 hours—a two-hour increase for both men and women since a similar survey in 1992. StatsCan classified 38 per cent of women between 25 and 44 as "time stressed" for agreeing to at least seven of 10 stress questions—the highest percentage of any group in the survey.

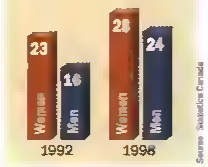
On top of paid work, married women put in an average of 34.4 hours a week of unpaid work on such responsibilities as housework, child care, shopping and volunteer activities. Men spent 22.8 hours a week on those activities. "Society is creating workaholics," said Lucille Peszat, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Stress and Well-Being. "People don't know when to say no—they just keep on going until they're ready to drop."

Burdened by a growing workload, half of the men and women aged 25 to 44 felt squeezed for time to spend with family or friends. Canadians who felt most severely time stressed also reported having less time for relaxing in front of a television set, playing sports or socializing. Married and single-parent mothers with full-time jobs reported having the least leisure time of any group—an average of only 3.6 hours a week.

Although Canadians under 25 reported feeling less stress than older respondents, young women were twice as likely as young men to feel stressed. And stress appeared to decline with age, with only 14 per cent of women between 55 and 64 and even fewer men in that age group reporting high stress levels.

Feeling more pressure

Percentage aged 25 to 44 whose survey responses indicated they were "time stressed"



Debunking the melatonin fad

The craze for consuming a synthetic version of the human hormone melatonin is rooted in the belief that the pills can help people sleep, offset jet lag—and slow the effects of aging by making up for the body's dwindling production of the substance. Now, a U.S. study suggests that melatonin levels do not decline with the passage of time. In a report published in the *American Journal of Medicine*, researchers at the Harvard University medical school and the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston said they found similar melatonin levels in 34 men and women aged 65 to 81 and a group of people aged 18 to 30. While debunking the idea that melatonin levels decline with age, the scientists said there is some evidence that melatonin pills can help with jet lag and insomnia.

Heart of a lamb

Employing a technique that may eventually be used in humans, scientists have successfully grown heart valves in a laboratory and implanted them in lambs. Researchers from the Children's Hospital in Boston told a meeting of the American Heart Association the valves have been functioning in the lambs for five months and appeared to be growing with the young animals. To make the valves, the researchers grew lambs' cells on a biodegradable, valve-shaped scaffolding. When heart valves, which control blood flow by opening and closing, have to be replaced in humans, doctors implant pigs' valves, or artificial ones made from plastic and other materials. The Boston researchers said that it could take five years or longer before any attempt is made to grow new heart valves and implant them in humans.

Juiced up

Drinking three glasses of orange juice a day can significantly improve the balance of the beneficial and dangerous forms of cholesterol, according to a study by researchers from the University of Western Ontario in London. The scientists told a meeting of the American Heart Association that when a group of 16 men and nine women with high blood cholesterol levels drank three glasses of orange juice a day, their levels of HDL—the so-called good cholesterol—increased by an average of 21 per cent, and the ratio of HDL to LDL—the so-called bad cholesterol—dropped by 16 per cent. They said that orange juice consumption appeared to reduce risk factors that are associated with heart disease.



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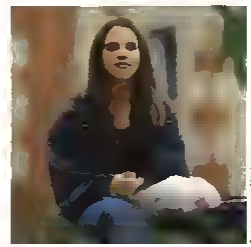


Ann Dowsett Johnston

Grading the graders

Here's the question: after nine years, has the *Maclean's* ranking of Canadian universities had a positive or negative effect on the state of higher education in this country? Ask me, and I'll answer positive: the ranking has raised the profile of postsecondary education, prompted publicly funded institutions to share vital information—and offered ample evidence that the quality of undergraduate education is slipping in Canada. If it helps persuade Paul Martin to share a little of his surplus with the provinces so they can reinvest in Canadian universities, all the better.

There are those who disagree with me, some more than others. This year, the dissent emanates from the University of Alberta, which believes that *Maclean's* has shortchanged its homegrown undergrads. In the university ranking, *Maclean's* measures the average entering grade of first-year students, and the percentage who arrive with 75 per cent or higher. This year, the University of Alberta sits at the bottom of its category, with an average entering grade of 79.5 per cent, 73.9 of those students arrived with grades of 75 per cent or more. By comparison, Queen's students had the highest average entering grade, at 87.1 per cent; and fully 99.3 per cent of those arriving at McGill had marks of 75 per cent or more.



Todd Korol for Maclean's

Gelinas: a 99-per-cent average

But officials at the University of Alberta argue that since students in their province write standardized department tests, worth 50 per cent of their graduating mark from high school, their grades are more reliable than those coming out of Ontario schools. They also argue that the Alberta grades are, on average, somewhat lower than the Ontario ones. Last week, Doug Owram, vice-president, academic, at the University of Alberta, told *The Edmonton Sun* that "an entry-level performance that would get a student a 75-per-cent mark here would earn 85 per cent in Ontario."

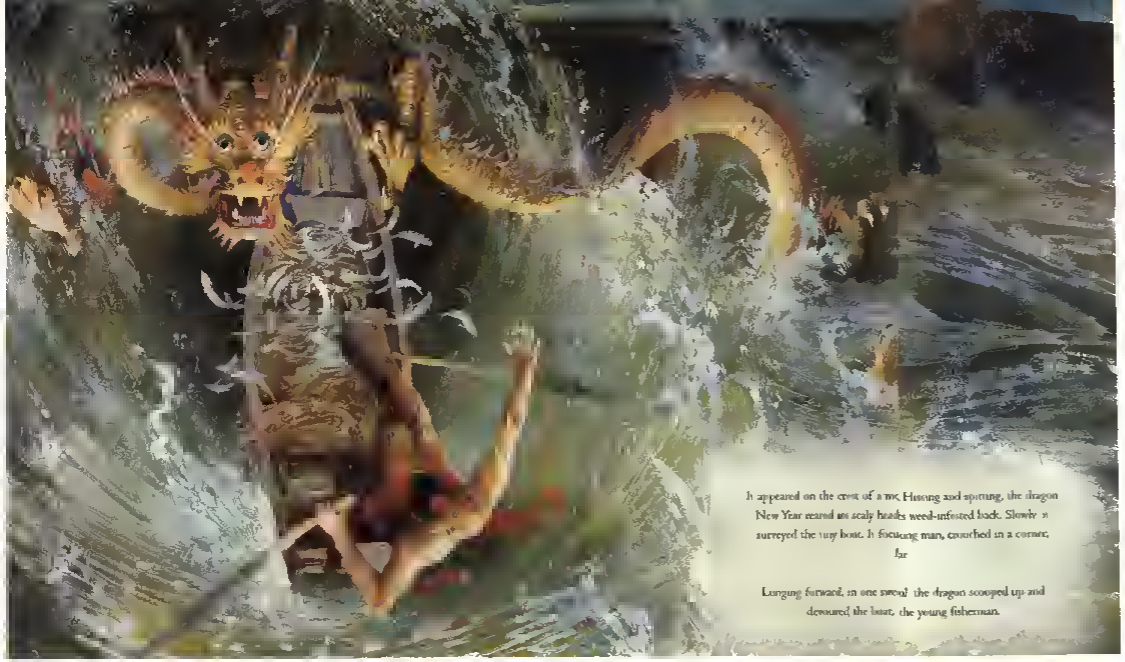
Which raises the question: should *Maclean's* discount all marks for Ontario students by 10 per cent? Does that include Ontario high-school grads enrolled at the University of Alberta, whose out-of-province intake has doubled since 1995? And if *Maclean's* agreed that it was wise to discount the grades of Ontario students, how should the magazine adjust for students from British Columbia, which also has standardized tests? Or students from Newfoundland and Saskatchewan for that matter?

What Owram is referring to is known in academic circles as "grade inflation"—the suspicion that certain schools inflate their students' marks to improve their chances of university admission. Rumours of grade inflation have been around for decades. If Alberta educators are pointing a finger at Ontario schools, many in Ontario point a finger at New Brunswick. And this is not just a province-against-province quibble. Many universities have identified certain high schools as being academically stronger than others. It's well known that certain universities keep tabs on the performance of grads from individual schools, especially when it comes to acceptance into such elite programs as engineering and computer science. Says Robin Geller, registrar and director of admissions at McGill: "This is a sensitive issue. Within actual provinces—to say nothing of *between* provinces—there are significant differences in grading practices and standards."

When it comes to general acceptance into the majority of programs, most universities treat students equally, no matter where they come from. A grade is a grade is a grade. According to Wendy Loat, senior admissions policy adviser at the University of Toronto, her school makes its offers in April and May, based on midterm marks. Results from the Alberta provincial exams, which are written in June, arrive too late to be used by Toronto for the purposes of admission.

To some extent, average entering grade is a measure of demand. And it only follows that as the huge echo boom generation sets its sights on university in the next 10 years, the standards for admission will soar—unless capacity is greatly increased. In Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia—the provinces expecting the largest growth in the 18- to 21-year-old population—competition will be brutal. In Ontario and British Columbia, competition has been heating up for several years. When motivated students graduate from high school with strong high marks, it may reflect an understanding of that reality.

For some time now, Rod Fraser has done an excellent job of raising the profile of the University of Alberta. Like many presidents, he is actively courting bright students from across Canada. But for the moment, almost 90 per cent of his first-year class comes from Alberta. That proportion may grow even larger if he continues to insist that putting Ontario and Alberta students on par is like finding Canadian "dollarettes" and American dollars in your pocket, and counting them as equal. And if Fraser's logic follows, shouldn't someone break it to first-year student Jennifer Gelinas—an Edmonton native with an entering grade of 99 per cent—that her average is actually 109? Just asking.



Books

Pages of Wonder

The season's best picture books brim with an array of visual and narrative thrills

Every year, the universe of Canadian picture books for children seems to expand, with more amazing flights of fancy, more cultural flavours, more varieties of pleasure for young people. To mark Children's Book Week—Nov. 13 to 20—a selection of the season's best homegrown picture books (all prices cited are for hard-covers, but some titles are also available in paper)

I Know an Old Laddie (Penguin, $19.99) is veteran children's author Jean Little's giggly takeoff on the tale of the old lady who swallowed a fly. Rose Cowles's Governor General's Award-nominated acrylic and collage depictions of the moustachioed, elderly "laddie" swallowing a wapiti and a skunk, among other creatures, are wacky and wonderful.

For the sweetest kind of whimsy, few books this season come close to writer-illustrator Roslyn Schwartz's inaugural Mole Sisters tales. **The Mole Sisters and the Piece of Moss** and **The Mole Sisters and the Rainy Day** (Annick, $14.95 each) are playful, endearing and just about anything else a preschooler could ask for. Schwartz's coloured-pencil drawings inspire wonder—as do the moles' celebratory attitude towards life.

A sweet, dreamy ode to fathers, **Tall in the Saddle** (Orca, $17.95) details a boy's fantasy that his dad, after leaving for the office in a suit and tie, metamorphoses into a cowboy hero. Anne Carter has penned a simple but tantalizing tale about the father's exploits with stray calves and cattle rustlers, while David McPhail's colourful, vintage-style graphics are captivating.

With a spare, sensuous text by Nancy Hundal and exquisite oils by Brian Deines, **Prairie Summer** (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, $19.95) is closer to art than kiddie diversion. Deines's shimmery illustrations are an ideal match for Hundal's poetic text.

The Prairie Fire (Orca, $17.95) also conjures up the plains, but in a more old-fashioned way. Marlynn Reynolds tells the story of a pioneer boy's ingenuity in helping to save the family farm from going up in flames. Don Kilby's vivid drawings enhance the suspenseful tale.

The sensitive, insightful story of a girl who just wants to "dance with the rain," **A Screaming Kind of Day** (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, $18.95) is a worthy nominee for the Governor General's Award for children's text. Author Rachna Gilmore convincingly enters the mind of the spunky Scully, who pulls out her hearing aids when she doesn't want to hear her mother's reprimands, and who can more than stand up to her older brother's provocations. Gordon Sauvé's hyperrealistic acrylics are effective, but the real draw here is Gilmore's prose.

Writer-illustrator Gary Clement has scored a double coup with **The Great Poochini** (Groundwood, $16.95), the tale of an opera-star dog in danger of missing opening night. By day, the dog is simply Jack, companion to his master, Hersh, but, by night, he slips off to the concert hall to perform such classics as *Dog Giovanni* by Wolfhound Amadeus Mozart, opposite singers such as Madama Barkoli. Clement's Governor General's Award-nominated graphics are first-rate, while the text is howlingly funny.

Sindbad: From the Tales of the Thousand and One Nights (Tundra, $19.99) is a stunningly illustrated retelling of the famed story by Montreal illustrator Ludmila Zeman. The Czechoslovakian-born artist researched Persian miniatures, Oriental carpets and illustrated manuscripts in museums around the world. The rich colours and intricate patterns that characterize these ancient arts grace every page.

Children's imaginative powers are celebrated in the ingenious **My Four Lions** (Annick, $17.95). Bernice Gold's simple but captivating text recounts a little boy's fantasy of leaving school to go to his camp deep in the forest, where he shares a pizza with four lion guardians. Joanne Stanbridge's gorgeous watercolours show reality on the left page and an irresistible dreamworld on the right.

Popol Vuh: A Sacred Book of the Maya (Groundwood, $19.95) combines compelling text with sophisticated illustrations. Sometimes called the Mayan Bible, *Popol Vuh* has been adapted for younger readers by Guatemalan-born, California-based anthropologist Victor Montejo. The linked episodes describe how the world began (it took three tries to create people), the antics of demigods and supernatural beings, and a history of the Mayan people. The dramatic, finely textured pictures are by Nicaraguan illustrator Luis Garay, who lives in Toronto for part of the year.

The punning cleverness of **The Magic Mustache** (Annick, $17.95) may leave at least some children a little bewildered at first, but they will nonetheless love Stéphane Jorisch's wacky Dali-esque illustrations. And with repeated readings, they are sure to get the jokes in Gary Barwin's nutty takeoff on *Jack and the Beanstalk*, in which the moustache of the title grows into a skyscraping beard, while disembodied noses, eyes and ears cavort about.



Spreads from **I Know an Old Laddie** *(above); and* **The Dragon New Year** *(top) dining on a wapiti and the magical origins of fireworks*

Sheldon Oberman, a Winnipeg Jew and a teacher, and artist Simon Tookoome, one of the last Inuit to live a nomadic life in the Arctic, ostensibly have little in common. But love of a good story brought them together, and the result of their collaboration, **The Shaman's Nephew: A Life in the Far North** (Stoddart, $23.95) is a deeply moving tale aimed at preteen readers, which weaves together Tookoome's life story and traditional lore. The renowned Inuit artist provided the magical drawings, while Oberman crafted Tookoome's vignettes into English.

Bear on the Train (Kids Can, $15.95) is Julie Lawson's dreamy, mesmerizing tale of a bear that spends the winter in the grain hopper of a cross-country train. Youngsters will thrill to Brian Deines's radiant oils of the train, the bear and the young boy who is the only witness to the animal's adventure.

The pragmatism of young people is highlighted in **My Rows and Piles of Coins** (Thomas Allen, $23.95), the story of a Tanzanian boy's

Books

Every year, there are more amazing flights of fancy and more cultural flavours



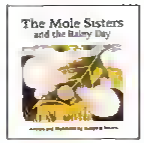
Page from **Brave Highland Heart;** *graphic from* **Tall in the Saddle** *(left): rural Celtic tradition and a cowboy-loving son's worship of his father*



efforts to accumulate enough money for a bicycle. Any kid who has tried to save up for something will relate to the young Saruni's quest. The tale by Tanzanian-born, Edmonton-based Tololwa Mollel comes vividly to life with E. B. Lewis's uncannily expressive watercolours.

In **Mr. Dickens Hits Town** (Tundra, $19.99), British author Jan Mark has fun with a real-life event: Charles Dickens's 1842 visit to Montreal. In Mark's telling, the world-famous author is a bit of a buffoon—an excuse for some wonderfully colourful illustrations by Toronto-based Regolo Ricci, not to mention a subtle poke at fame.

The writing-illustrating team of David Bouchard and Zhong-Yang Huang complete their Chinese legends trilogy with **The Dragon New Year** and **The Mermaid's Muse** (Raincoast, $19.95 each). **The Dragon New Year** explains the magical origins of fireworks and the dragon dance at Chinese New Year. **The Mermaid's Muse**, meanwhile, spins a tale around the beginning of dragon-boat races. Bouchard's prose is economical and dramatic, but the real strength of the books is Huang's majestic oils.





Looking at rows of paintings on white gallery walls can be a tedious exercise for children. But **Meet the Group of Seven** (Kids Can, $16.95), produced in collaboration with the Art Gallery of Ontario, is a kid-friendly way into the works of Canada's best-known painters. Arranged like a scrapbook, it consists of two-page spreads—including reproductions, photos and digestible chunks of text—on topics ranging from why the Group of Seven was considered revolutionary to what it was like to paint in rugged northern terrain.

A young girl's determination to take part in her family's traditional *ceilidh* celebration is the focus of the big-hearted **Brave Highland Heart** (Stoddart Kids, $18.95). Heather Kellerhals-Stewart's story combines a loving evocation of Ontario rural life with a passion for Gaelic tradition. And Werner Zimmerman's watercolour-and-pencil illustrations, which won him a Governor General's Award nomination, are dazzling.

Linda Granfield's 1995 book, *In Flanders Fields*, told the story behind John McCrae's famous poem. She takes on another verse classic with **High Flight: A Story of World War II** (Tundra, $18.99). It tells the story of American John Gillespie Magee Jr., who wrote the famous *High Flight* to evoke the joy of piloting a plane—and died in an air accident two months later, at the age of 19. As Granfield relates, an eager-for-battle Magee joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1940, before the United States entered the war. The paintings by Michael Martchenko are sensitive vignettes of the world at war.

With **Boy of the Deeps** (Groundwood, $16.95), celebrated illustrator Ian Wallace, the grandson of an English miner, vividly conjures up a boy's first day in a Cape Breton coal mine at the turn of the century. Accompanying his gripping narrative are his homespun, affectionate acrylics.

The Forest Family (Tundra, $18.99) is an artful retelling of several myths and folk tales, from the biblical story of Ruth and Naomi to the medieval saga of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Author Joan Bodger has come up with an ingenious linking device: they are told by Sylvania, who lives in the forest with her family. The woodcuts by Mark Lang evoke the storybook traditions of centuries past.

The tale of a dog that loves to play in the mud but hates washing, **Pippin Takes a Bath** (Kids Can, $12.95) is a silly delight. Bernice Lum's witty illustrations are an ideal match for K.V. Johansen's lively, comical text, which recounts Pippin's misadventures as she flees her bath-insistent master.

Claire's Gift (North Winds, $18.99) is Maxine Trottier's charming story of a girl's introduction to hooking rugs in olden-days Chéticamp on Cape Breton. The tale illustrates the Chéticamp adage that when a rug is well-made, "a little piece of your heart is tucked in there with the wool." Rajka Kupesic's folk art-inspired oils are themselves big-spirited and evocative.

Calling a book for preteen readers "educational" risks giving it the kiss of death. But **The Spirit of Canada** (Malcolm Lester, $45), edited by Barbara Hehner, *is* educational—in the best sense of the word. No dry recitation of facts here. The beautifully illustrated (by more than a dozen artists) anthology of legends, fiction, poems and songs draws on the best writing Canada has to offer. It is no idle boast when the dust jacket claims "here is everything that makes us Canadian."

Patricia Chisholm, Patricia Hluchy and Barbara Wickens

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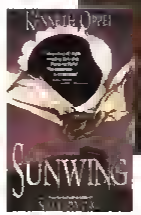
High-flying tales for tweens

Canadian novels for youth are winning success wherever they land

By Brian Bethune

Kenneth Oppel was a precocious 15-year-old living in Victoria when he sent his first novel to the famed British children's author Roald Dahl. Dahl recommended the book to his agent, and *Colin's Fantastic Video Adventure* was published shortly after. Through his first 13 books, Oppel thought of himself as a realistic writer, someone who kept his stories grounded in the actual lives of his young readers. So why is the 32-year-old now the critically acclaimed, best-selling creator of two volumes of fantasy about—of all creatures—bats? "Yeah, I always promised myself I'd never write a talking-animal book," Oppel laughs. But then an animal-loving friend introduced him to the world of bats and, by 1993, what Oppel calls "the challenge" began to grow on him. "All the adorable animals had been done ad nauseum. But such unlikely heroes? There was a healthy dose of perversity to the idea—could I get people to identify with bats?"





Oppel at home: two best-selling fantasies about the world of bats offer suspense-filled stories and an unusual theological dimension

The answer turned out to be an emphatic yes for the author, now living in Toronto with his graduate student wife, Philippa Sheppard, and their one- and four-year-olds. Oppel, who will tour southern British Columbia as part of Canadian Children's Book Week, Nov. 13 to 20, is one of his genre's stars among middle readers, the eight-to-12-year-olds. Across the English-speaking world, those kids—and many of their elders—are wild about Harry Potter (page 105). But Canadian authors have recently managed to grab their share of acclaim at home and abroad. Christopher Paul Curtis of Windsor, Ont., won the Newbery Honor—one of the top prizes in the world of children's literature—for his superb 1995 book *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*. And Prince Rupert, B.C., writer Iain Lawrence's thrilling nautical adventure *The Wreckers* was an American Library Association Best Book winner in 1998. Both have strong new titles out this year.

But the greatest success has come to



Matas: taking an ambitious stab at a complex issue

Oppel. His first bat adventure, *Silverwing*, has sold more than 200,000 copies since 1997 in North America alone—more than all his earlier works combined. In August, the novel was published in Britain, Australia and New Zealand, and it will soon appear in Germany. *Silverwing* has also taken a host of honours to match its sales, the prestigious Mr. Christie's and Canadian Library Association awards among them, and *Silverwing*'s recently released sequel, Sunwing (HarperCollins, $14.95), still available only in Canada, is already in its fifth printing.

The two books focus on Shade, a fatherless young silverwing bat, the runt of his colony. Shade is a trouble-maker—the equivalent, his creator says, of "an 11-year-old boy with a Napoleonic complex." Unlike his fellow newborns, Shade won't just shut up and blindly follow orders. Oppel may have yielded to the animal story temptation, but he still rejects many of its conventions. "I think fantasies about the chosen one are corny," he says.

'You can't tell kids in the 20th century that if they follow the rules, everything will work out'

"Shade is the *right* one because he refuses to accept par answers." As *Silverwing* opens, Shade—infuriated that no one can explain to him why bats are forbidden to see the sun—inadvertently shatters an ancient peace with the owls when he refuses to return to his roost before sunrise.

The owls retaliate by destroying the hollow tree that has been the bat colony's summer home for hundreds of years. That sets in motion the suspense-filled narrative that has made *Silverwing*—and now *Sunwing*—so popular among book-resistant preteen boys. As the bats retreat to their winter roost, Shade is separated from the others during a storm. Carrying on alone, he dodges dangerous humans, meets unexpected friends and encounters one truly terrifying enemy. Goth is a carnivorous vampire bat—a "cannibal," in Shade's shocked judgment—from Amazonia who has escaped human captivity. The bloody swathe the gigantic Goth cuts through the local bird population escalates the dispute with the owls into all-out war, and threatens doom for the entire silverwing colony.

But there are elements in Shade's saga that elevate it beyond gripping adventure. First, is Oppel's deep immersion in the life of bats. Since they see only in black and white, he mentions not a single colour in the novel. Journeys are measured in wing-beats and navigated by sound, while days are reckoned from sunset to sunrise. (Oppel does cheat a little, though: bat guano is nowhere mentioned.) And the author depicts owls as bats think of them—"flying slaughterhouses"—a fresh portrayal of birds that are as highly regarded in folklore as bats are despised.

Humans, too, are viewed through a bat's eye. These all-powerful but remote figures move into the forefront of the story in *Sunwing*. The northern humans are at war with the southerners. To evade air defences, the northerners have begun attaching explosives to captured bats before dropping them from planes high above enemy cities. The devices go off when the exhausted, terrified creatures land on the buildings below. Oppel here is merely expanding on secret U.S. military experiments during the Second World War. (The actual project was abrupdy abandoned after hundreds of bats escaped, incinerating several buildings before taking refuge under a large fuel tank.)

Humans thereby enter into the second extraordinary aspect of Oppel's work—its theological dimensions. With the humans turning on them, and the bats' own benign goddess, Nocturna, failing to help them, the silverwings feel lost. Goth, on the other hand, is actively aided by his own bloodthirsty god, Zotz, who frequently intervenes in mortal affairs. It is a far more bleak theology than most fantasies offer children, but one in accordance with Oppel's perspective. "Evil is always more blatantly obvious—you have to look much harder to find acts of goodness. You can't tell kids in the 20th century that if they follow the rules, everything will work out." For Oppel that take on life is just another aspect of the realism he has brought to a "talking animal" story of a very different kind.

Christopher Paul Curtis's first novel, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* was a marvellous evocation of a pivotal time in African-American history. His new book, Bud, Not Buddy (Random House, $24.95), a poignant and very funny Depression-era story of a lonely black child, is easily as good. Ten-year-old Bud—who won't let anyone call him Buddy—has been in and out of a Flint, Mich., orphanage since his mother died four years earlier. Bud, disregarding hunger, fear and loneliness, runs away from a foster home to search for his father. His only clue is the posters his mother used to collect, advertising performances by Herman E. Calloway and his band, the wonderfully named Dusky Devastators of the Depression.

Curtis, who moved to Windsor from Flint in 1991, is an immensely skilled writer, capable of combining broad humour with subtle social commentary. Bud's many rules for "Having a Funner Life" are amusingly expressed—No. 8, for example, warns children that when

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Bud's rules come across not as adult cynicism but the hard-won wisdom of a hard-luck child

adults tell them to listen carefully, "run as fast as you can because something real terrible is just around the corner." In Curtis's hands the maxims come across quite clearly not as adult cynicism, but the hard-won wisdom of a hard-luck child. And in a neat reversal of a common stereotype, everyone described simply as a man or a woman or a child is black. It is the white folks, rare presences in Bud's world, who receive a colour identification in such phrases as "me, a little white boy and a little girl."



Bud himself is one of the most appealing heroes in recent kids' books, a brave and resourceful child whose "eyes don't cry no more." Not, that is, until he realizes he has finally come among people who care for him. Then he shocks himself by dissolving into wracking sobs. It is one of the finest scenes in one of the year's best children's novels.

W. D. Valgardson's new collection of seven original short pieces, **The Divorced Kids Club and Other Stories** (Groundwood, $18.95), brought him his first Governor General's nomination this fall. The locale varies from rural Manitoba—Valgardson was raised in Gimli, the centre of Icelandic immigration to the province—to Victoria, where he now teaches comparative literature. But the theme is identical in each piece: a young teen is acutely aware of being an outsider. The characters baffle their parents and even themselves with their inability to think or feel like everyone around them. They even express their disassociation in the same metaphor. Sam in "Cyberworld" muses that "everyone else was colour-blind while he could see colour but couldn't explain it." Annie Lee in "Cabin Fever" says almost the exact same thing. And the characters' responses jibe too. They all draw on their inner resources to adapt and survive in Valgardson's polished, low-key stories.

Veteran Winnipeg author Carol Matas, a two-time Governor General's Award nominee, is best-known for her Second World War novels on Jewish themes. Her newest book, **In My Enemy's House** (Scholastic, $18.99), examines the age-old problem of the intermingling of good and evil in the human heart from an intriguing angle. Marisa is a blond, blue-eyed Polish Jew who, in 1941, assumes a Christian girl's papers in an attempt to save her life by going to Germany as a Polish slave worker. She ends up working on the family farm of a high-ranking Nazi official. The Reymanns—husband, wife and three children—are quite the nicest people Marisa has met since she lost her own family. Cultured, kind and considerate even to Polish servants, every last Reymann also firmly believes that Jews are vermin, fit only for extermination.

The contrast drives Marisa to thoughts of suicide, as she struggles to keep her secret among people who, if they learned it, would have demanded her death as insistently as they now sought her well-being. But Marisa survives the war, as do the Reymanns. She stays on the farm for a while, unable—for their sake—to reveal the truth. "How could I have become attached to them like this? And yet, how could I not?" she wonders. *In My Enemy's House* has its flaws. Even those who can accept a kindly Nazi—as opposed to an ordinary German—may balk at Marisa's postwar relationship with the family. But the novel is an ambitious attempt to bring a complex issue to young readers.

Iain Lawrence lives on an island off Prince Rupert, B.C. The author of two nonfiction books on sailing, and a man who spends several months a year on the water, he clearly knows his boats—and the classics of seagoing literature. His 1998 novel, *The Wreckers*, mixed history and mystery in a page-turning narrative reminiscent of Robert Louis Stevenson. **The Smugglers** (Random House, $24.95) offers more of the same. Set in the early 19th century, the story gets under way in Kent with 16-year-old John Spencer going aboard his father's schooner Dragon to see the ship safely to London with a cargo of wool. But the Dragon's captain, a supposedly reformed smuggler named Crowe, and his villainous crew have a different plan.

Spencer is tricked into a brandy-smuggling run to France that in turn leads to a hair-raising cat-and-mouse game in a fog bank with the Royal Navy. Afterward, as Crowe is slowly revealed to be not just a criminal but a murderous psychopath, Spencer's life hangs by a thread. With its smuggling lore and rousing action, the novel is an old-fashioned adventure story. Best of all is Lawrence's ability to capture the sounds and sights of voyages in the age of sail, and the exhilarating feeling of liberty they invoke even today. "Running free," repeats one sailor after the helm calls their course. "Lord love me. I like this sailor talk." in



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Just wild about Harry

The Harry Potter series casts a spell over millions



Rowling: unequalled success

Three blockbuster novels later, the saga of Harry Potter and his creator has almost reached the status of myth. The orphan boy who learns he is a wizard, and J. K. Rowling, the single mom on welfare who wrote the first story in a Scottish café with her baby on her lap, are familiar icons to millions of readers on both sides of the Atlantic. The success of the books has probably never been equalled in children's literature. Best-seller lists such as *The New York Times*', which include kids' titles, consistently list Harry's adventures in the top three spots. Since 1997, sales have exceeded five million hardcover copies in the United States. And in Canada, which the 34-year-old author, a former teacher, has never even visited, more than 700,000 books have been sold at $19.95 apiece. A happy Allan MacDougall, president of Vancouver-based Raincoast Books, which publishes and distributes the novels in Canada, expects that total to reach one million by Christmas. "The rest of our business is fine," he says, "but Harry Potter has put us way beyond fine."

Harry's appeal extends to adults, many of whom are fans, too. Each endlessly inventive novel takes place over an academic year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, with its eccentric masters and courses in potions and transfigurations. They feature the vividly realized friends and enemies Harry makes there, his skill at the spectacular school sport of Quidditch (a soccer-like game played in the air) and his battles with the evil Lord Voldemort, the killer of his parents. "They are very attractive narratives, capturing magic, aspects of growing up, school and school relationships—things both scary and familiar at the same time," says David McDerby, manager of the Nicholas Hoare bookstore in downtown Montreal. McDerby, like other book-trade insiders, also sees factors beyond literary merit at play. "Of course, there is the huge snowball effect, too," he says. "The Potter series moved from being just books to being news, and when that happens in our business, all hell breaks loose."

That may be true, but among children, who find the novels utterly absorbing, they have worked something else, something perhaps too elusive for adults to grasp. The books strike as deeply as the most timeless fairy tales. Harry and his friends seem intensely real—parents report a frequent refrain of "they're just like us."

It is, in fact, the magical pull of the books, as much as their magical content, that has provoked a backlash against Harry. In school districts scattered across the United States, Christian organizations and individual parents have denounced what they see as an evil celebration of the occult. But in Canada, publisher MacDougall notes, there has been no trace of such a reaction, and even in America the critics have made little impression on a Potter-mad reading public. Harry Potter lives a charmed life indeed.

Brian Bethune

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Austen Powers

By Brian D. Johnson

Patricia Rozema moves into *Mansfield Park* as if to the manor born

Jane Austen is back, and she has a new spring in her step. After adaptations of *Emma*, *Persuasion*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*, it seemed there was nothing left to be mined by Hollywood. But Harvey Weinstein, the tenacious co-chairman of Miramax Films, thought there might be a way of extracting cinematic gold from the stubborn ground of *Mansfield Park* (1814), Austen's third and least popular novel. So he turned to Canadian director Patricia Rozema. On face value, she was not the most likely candidate to translate Austen's genteel sensibility into a period confection. She has thrived on the margins, with a career that has glided from the art-house whimsy of *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* (1987) to the lesbian romance of *When Night Is Falling* (1995). But Rozema, the first woman to direct an Austen movie, was more than up to the challenge.



The director: the most successful movie ever by a Canadian

Her *Mansfield Park* is an exhilarating triumph. Witty, energetic and bravely modern, it breathes new life into Austen while preserving her slyly irreverent spirit. Purists may be shocked by some of the liberties Rozema has taken with her script. *Mansfield Park* is the most sexualized of all Austen adaptations, with a frisson of lesbian desire, and a fleeting sex scene that the director had to trim for the American version to win a PG-13 rating. Rozema has also fortified Fanny Price, Austen's timid heroine, with a streak of feminism. Making her a writer, she has grafted aspects of Austen's own life onto the character.

Although *Mansfield Park* has no major stars, its eclectic cast—which ranges from glowering playwright Harold Pinter to *Trainspotting*'s mercurial Jonny Lee Miller—is uniformly superb. And Rozema, whose films all possess a clear-eyed lyricism, adapts to the sweep of period filmmaking as if to the manor born. At 41, she has made what will likely be the most successful movie by a Canadian director of her generation. After it scored highly in early test screenings, Weinstein told her: "Patricia, I guarantee you a hit." Miramax already has an Oscar campaign in gear, with the hope of getting a nomination for best adapted screenplay at the very least. The company had her give a speech to screenwriters recently in Los Angeles, and last week she addressed the Directors Guild of America.

On the American publicity circuit, meanwhile, Rozema has been trailing Toronto friends Atom Egoyan and Don McKellar—they are promoting the current U.S. releases of *Felicia's Journey* and *Last Night*, respectively. "I'm so proud to be on that team," she enthused during an interview over lunch last week. "I feel like we're a little posse. I get lots of questions like, 'What's going on up there? What do they put in the water?' And I say, 'They put money into arts funding. We're all a product of what critics would call protectionist behaviour. We've been allowed to develop our tastes and make our mistakes.' "

Now that Rozema is coming out into the world of unprotected moviemaking, she seems determined to do it on her own terms. Like Austen's Fanny Price, this is a woman not easily swayed by men of property. The director remembers the first time she was courted by Weinstein. It was 1987. He had a fledgling company called Miramax Films. She was a neophyte director whose first feature, *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, had just been invited to the Cannes film festival. She had barely got the news when Weinstein called her out of the blue to demand an advance screening. She said he would have to wait. But he persisted, phoning her almost every day, while she resisted his entreaties.



Miller and O'Connor fortifying Fanny Price, one of the novelist's least inspiring heroines, breathes new life into Mansfield Park *while preserving Austen's irreverent spirit*

In Cannes, she found Weinstein waiting for her on the steps of the theatre. And after *Mermaids* premiered to a 10-minute standing ovation, he found himself competing with a horde of other suitors who wanted the film. "Everywhere I went," recalls Rozema, "there was another bottle of Dom Perignon. He just *hustled* us. He'd say, 'I'll make you an offer, but you have to respond without leaving this room.' In our innocence we'd say, 'Oh, is that how it's done?' "

Eventually, Weinstein won the rights to *Mermaids*, outbidding his rivals with a $500,000 offer. "I always got a big kick out of him because he really did seem to have a sense of how huge the possibilities really are," says Rozema. *Mermaids*, which cost just $350,000, went on to gross $6 million, making Rozema the toast of Canadian cinema. Weinstein, now 47, went on to become the world's most powerful "independent" producer as Miramax (now part of the Disney empire) scored such Oscar triumphs as *The English Patient* and *Shakespeare in Love*.

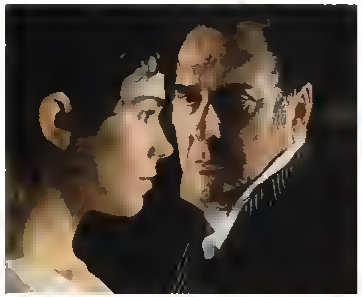
Two years ago, when Weinstein approached her to direct *Mansfield Park*, Rozema again played hard to get. The script "was too boring," she says. "I really couldn't force myself through it." But after some coaxing, she finally read the Austen novel, then agreed to write and direct her own, more adventurous adaptation, drawing on Austen's letters and teenage fiction to enrich her screenplay. Fanny Price is one of Austen's least inspiring heroines. British writer Kingsley Amis called her "a monster of complacency and pride." By working Austen into the mix, "I added a layer to her," says Rozema. "But I don't change her behaviour particularly. She's not suddenly this super-heroine. She's still really quite passive."

Fanny is a cautious Cinderella, one who can't decide between glass slippers and sensible shoes. Portrayed with disarming subtlety by Australian actress Frances O'Connor, she is a poor girl from Portsmouth who is shipped off to wealthy relatives at Mansfield Park and accorded a status somewhere between servant and daughter. She finds herself in a dysfunctional dynasty ruled by an overbearing patriarch, Sir Thomas Bertram (Pinter), who derives his fortune from the slave trade. His wife lives in a haze of laudanum and liquor. His two

Austen's letters and her wildly satirical teenage fiction enrich Rozema's screenplay

daughters, Maria and Julia, are desperate to be married off Fanny, meanwhile, burns with a repressed love for her cousin, Edmund (Miller), an aspiring clergyman

Complicating matters is the arrival of a racy brother-sister duo, Mary and Henry Crawford (Embeth Davidtz and Alessandro Nivola) While Edmund becomes enamoured of Mary, Fanny fends off Henry's relentless courtship, and her resistance to this eligible suitor infuriates Sir Thomas. "He is not with-



O'Connor and Pinter: a uniformly superb cast

out charm," Fanny tries to explain, "but like many charming people he conceals an almost absolute dependence on the appreciation of others"

That elegant line comes from Rozema, not Austen, and it shows how gracefully she has adopted the author's voice The director also sifted through Austen's letters, "underlining everything that felt fabulous to me," she says, and borrowing lines such as "I see more distinctly through the rain" Another source was Austen's surreal teenage writings, her juvenilia. "They're wildly satirical," says Rozema. "She just took the piss out of sweet little girly romances with stories of cannibalism and amnesia."

In the movie, Fanny reads stories and letters directly to the camera as she corresponds with her younger sister back in Portsmouth Drawing on Austen's writings, it is an ingenious conceit, a way of spicing up Fanny's character with Austen's spunky persona *Mansfield Park* is often considered Austen's most autobiographical novel. Like Fanny, she accepted a marriage proposal and changed her mind the next morning And there is a clear link between Fanny's quiet perseverance and Austen's struggle to survive while anonymously writing novels: the closeted female intelligence

Rozema also magnified the book's reference to Sir Thomas's role as a slave trader in the West Indies. "These things were related—the treatment of Fanny Price and the treatment of the slaves," says the director "Austen is pointing to the big bass note of the economics of the whole empire And that was exciting. I thought I could bring something new to the Jane Austen library by pointing to that."

In her research, Rozema discovered that the book's title likely refers to the historic Mansfield judgment, which protected slaves who had escaped to England Austen "is far too deliberate a writer to pick a name out of the blue," says the filmmaker. "She knew the niece of Lord Mansfield, her father was a trustee for a plantation in Antigua, and she wrote that she had fallen in love with the writings of Thomas Clarkson, an abolitionist So it seemed to me she had quite a political agenda"

In the film, a shot of Fanny riffling through sketches depicting plantation atrocities of rape and torture was one of the scenes that the Motion Picture Association of America wanted cut to preserve a PG-13 rating "Over my dead body," said Rozema, who appeased the MPAA on another front —by replacing a shot of two adulterers naked in bed with a less revealing close-up In Canada and the rest of the world, the movie will be shown intact

Rozema, who expects to be taken to task for messing with Jane Austen, defends her interpretation "I'm attracted to her anti-sentimentality—she just couldn't take romance seriously—but I'm suckier than her. I'm still touched by love well expressed." As for the suggestion of lesbian lust between Fanny and Mary, the director says she only drew out an innuendo that is in the book. The lesbian subtext polarized preview audiences, however. "I had to fight for it a bit," says Rozema. "That's why previews can be dangerous in the wrong hands, because they can basically take out anything that's unique or idiosyncratic."

But Rozema seems to be getting her own way, holding her own with heavyweights like Harvey Weinstein and Harold Pinter "They're the kind of powerful guys that I get a big kick out of and get along with really well," she says, "because I don't take them remotely seriously That's the Harvey principle—I take the piss out of him, and it's fine"

Rozema knows authority A daughter of Dutch immigrants, she was born in Kingston, Ont., and grew up in Sarnia within a strict Calvinist enclave. Austen, she says, "was someone who valued backbone and that's something I'm drawn to. There's a tradition in the Dutch Calvinist heritage, a place for the noble woman, the really powerful female figure who's intelligent, who speaks and is heard."

Embracing a freedom undreamed of in Austen's world, Rozema challenged her Calvinist faith in college and recognized her attraction to women. Now she has a young daughter, but declines to discuss her private life on the record As an irreverent artist on the verge of mainstream success, she has understandable concerns about being labelled for her sexual preference In her *Mansfield Park*, during a rehearsal of an amateur play, there is a lovely bit of double entendre arising from the confusion of whether Fanny has "come out" into society "Forget this 'out/not out' nonsense," one character chimes in. "I say we stage the play!" And that, Rozema says with a laugh, "has become my motto for living." m

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

Automotive Marketplace ONTARIO

Can Third-Party Middlemen Save You Money on a Lease?



Check out the facts first.

By Ken Shaw

Caveat emptor — buyer beware Since Roman times, consumer prudence has always been the wisest course of action and it is particularly true when you are planning on leasing a new car

That is what Ken Shaw Jr of Ken Shaw Lexus Toyota, Toronto, cautions people contemplating lease deals through a third-party leasing company.

"Often, third-party firms claim they can save potential buyers substantial money on a lease deal, compared with new car dealerships. A little research, however, often proves the opposite to be true," says Shaw, who is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association

Dealerships Offer Substantial Lease Savings

Shaw says that in April 1999 his company compared the leasing rates for a 1999 Toyota Corolla CE 'B' offered by his firm and a leading third-party leasing company The study showed that on a 48-month lease, the consumer would save about $1,172 leasing from his new car dealership

"Our lease rate was more than $17 per month less, totalling $842 40 over the term of the lease. Plus, we saved customers $330 on the lease buyout value — what consumers pay to purchase the automobile when the lease expires," explains Shaw

He adds that on a Sienna CE'B' 1999 model, the consumer would save $1,413 compared to the same third-party leasing company's offer — again over the full 48-month term of the lease

"These examples help illustrate why it's always a good idea to shop around If a leasing firm offers you what looks like a great deal, my advice is to take that offer to an new automobile dealer and see if you can do better More often than not, there is a very good chance the dealership will offer superior value," he says

Shaw stresses that leasing companies are middlemen, who first must purchase new cars from a dealer.

"Therefore, the price paid by consumers to lease the vehicle will already include the markup paid to the dealer On top of that, the leasing company adds its profit That is why by eliminating the middleman, consumers are often better off doing business directly with dealers"

Additionally, the auto industry is extremely competitive, Shaw says Dealers have to keep pace in terms of overall price, options, and financing plans – or they risk losing customers

Better Financing Terms

When using a third-party leasing company you will be typically paying standard bank rates that are currently about 8 1 per cent, says Shaw

"Dealers, by contrast, not only have access to the same kinds

of rates, they frequently can arrange much lower ones – based on factory-leasing rates – from their major automobile manufacturers. Therefore, they are often in a position to offer financing rates at about half of what the banks charge. Independent leasing companies do not have this kind of access to low-cost manufacturer financing.

Beware of Advertising Claims

Shaw is particularly concerned that third-party radio and Internet advertising may be making savings claims that cannot be substantiated in fact.

"Too many people are willing to believe these ads, then end up paying a premium by going through a leasing company. Some leasing firms, in fact, claim savings up to $2,000 per vehicle, or around $50 to $60 per month. We now know that by comparison, as demonstrated in our April study, new car dealers can save people money.

"It is important for consumers to realize there are no lease disclosure laws in Ontario. As a result, the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association and its sister organization, the Ontario Automobile Dealers Association have adopted a policy to provide full lease disclosure, so you know exactly what you are paying. No consumer should ever sign a lease without full disclosure."

He recommends using the Internet as a resource tool to obtain information, but warns that it cannot replace the benefits of face-to-face dealings in a showroom environment.

"You need to get that all-important firsthand look at a vehicle, its options and price. And when you're going through a dealer, our product representatives have the necessary expertise and direct technological links to manufacturers so you always get the latest product features and benefits," Shaw advises.

Going That Extra Mile

Dealerships tend to offer certain intangible benefits not normally associated with most leasing companies, Shaw maintains.

"If you are a regular customer at a dealership, we'll tend to pay special attention to your needs. For instance, if something goes wrong with your car after the warranty period expires, we are usually in a position to intervene on your behalf with the manufacturer – and that doesn't happen as often in third-party situations," Mr. Shaw says.

In general, not only is a dealership lease less expensive than that of a third party, new car dealers will go that extra mile for their direct customers in order to keep their business.

Above all, Shaw urges today's consumers to compare and compare again, before making any lease deal on a new car.

"It makes sense to find out as much as you can, and be as thorough as possible."

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Impreza World Rally Manufacturer's Champion 1995, 1996, 1997

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SUBARU
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SUBARU DEALER ASSOCIATION

Buying Trends in the Canadian Auto Sector



By Dennis Des Rosiers

After a decade of slow sales, Canadians are finally returning to the vehicle market in respectable numbers. Sales in Canada peeked in 1988 at over 1.5 million units and for the first time in 12 years consumers may purchase that many vehicles again.

It has been a difficult decade for auto lovers. Canada is the only major country where consumers bought fewer vehicles during the 1990s then during the previous decade. The reason for this is that in Canada it now takes close to 30 weeks of after-tax family earnings to buy a vehicle versus a little over 20 weeks at the beginning of the decade. This has proven to be a difficult hurdle for most consumers to jump. The combination of higher transaction prices with flat after-tax income growth has squeezed many out of the vehicle market for most of the decade. Transaction prices have increased from about $19,000 in 1990 to a little over $29,000 last year. Much of this increase has been due to higher taxes combined with government-man-

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dated safety and emission equipment. Significantly as well, consumers themselves have played a role in raising costs with their desire to buy bigger and more highly optioned vehicles. The vehicle companies find it next to impossible to sell base model cars and trucks.

In addition, consumers now want as much versatility in their vehicles as possible. That desire is reflected in the sales split between passenger cars and light trucks, such as minivans, pick-ups and sport utility vehicles. Light trucks now account for about 47 per cent of vehicle sales versus only 31 per cent a decade ago.

Even more revealing is the change in market segments favoured by consumers. Buyers now want more vehicle than ever before even entering the market. In 1990 the dominant vehicle type was compact cars with 24.4 per cent of the market. Intermediate cars accounted for 22.2 per cent and subcompact cars captured 13.6 per cent. Obviously Canadians were a "car buying", not a "light-truck buying" public. Buying habits today are radically different. The No. 1 market is still compact cars with 21.7 per cent, down a little over the decade, while intermediate cars have declined a little to 21.0 per cent. Subcompact cars have fallen by two thirds to only 4.9 per cent of sales. Compact vans in contrast have more than doubled their share of the market to 17.8 per cent and both full-size and compact sport utility vehicles have increased their share. Together these vehicles have more than doubled their market penetration in Canada, especially luxury sport utility vehicles which were previously almost non-existent. Pick-ups have also become more personal-use oriented and have increased their market share. The Canadian public has clearly become fascinated with:

- **Light trucks**
- **Larger vehicles**
- **More upscale cars and trucks**

Overall, the best selling passenger cars are still compacts. The Honda Civic emerged as the best seller in 1998 and as of the writing of this article has maintained that position.

The Ford Tempo and its sister vehicle, the Mercury Topaz, are gone. The Honda Accord and Chevrolet Lumina are not in the top 10. New nameplates include the Pontiac Grand Am, Chevrolet Malibu, Mazda Protege and Chrysler Intrepid. Look for the new Ford Focus to be on the list next year. Ford Canada has done a very good job with this vehicle and has positioned it right between the compact and the intermediate car markets where Canadians love to buy. It would not surprise me if it becomes the No. 1 selling car in Canada in the year 2000.

Also look for some excitement from the introduction by Toyota and Honda of their hybrid vehicles. These are super energy efficient vehicles that use both small gasoline engines and electricity as their powerplants. Through the use of advanced technology neither vehicle needs to be plugged in to recharge its batteries, eliminating the main problem normally associated with electric vehicles. I expect both to be very successful.

Domestic vehicles dominate the best selling light truck list with the Ford "F" series pick-up and Chevrolet C/K pick-up No. 1 and 2. These two always battle to the end of the year for best selling light truck in Canada. Ford has the lead after eight months. New light truck nameplates include the Ford Windstar, Chevrolet Venture, Ford Explorer and Chevrolet Blazer. The last two are sport utility vehicles. No import light truck has made the list for a decade, although vehicles like the Honda Odyssey and Toyota Sienna are poised to jump into the Top 10 in the new millennium.

Vehicle Market in Canada by Segment

	1990 Market Share	1999 Market Share
PASSENGER CAR		
Subcompact	13.6%	4.9%
Compact	24.4%	21.7%
Intermediate & Full Size	22.2%	21.0%
Luxury	2.7%	2.4%
Luxury Sport	0.3%	1.7%
Sport	5.5%	2.2%
TOTAL	68.7%	53.8%
LIGHT TRUCK		
Compact Van	8.7%	17.8%
Compact Pick-up	5.1%	2.1%
Compact Utility	5.1%	8.4%
Full Size Van	2.6%	2.1%
Full Size Pick-up	9.3%	13.2%
Full Size Utility	0.5%	2.5%
TOTAL	31.3%	46.2%
GRAND TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

Top 10 Passenger Cars 1990	1999 – Eight Months
1. Chevrolet Cavalier	1. Honda Civic
2. Honda Civic	2. Chevrolet Cavalier
3. Honda Accord	3. Pontiac Sunfire
4. Pontiac Sunbird	4. Toyota Corolla
5. Ford Tempo	5. Ford Taurus
6. Toyota Corolla	6. Pontiac Grand Am
7. Mercury Topaz	7. Mazda Protege
8. Toyota Tercel	8. Chevrolet Malibu
9. Ford Taurus	9. Chrysler Intrepid
10. Chevrolet Lumina	10. Toyota Tercel

Top 10 Light Trucks 1990	1999 – Eight Months
1. Chevrolet C/K Pick-up	1. Ford "F" Series Pick-up
2. Ford "F" Series Pick-up	2. GM C/K Pick-up
3. Ford Aerostar	3. Dodge Caravan
4. Dodge Caravan	4. Ford Windstar
5. Plymouth Voyager	5. Chevrolet Venture
6. Chevrolet Astro Van	6. Dodge Ram Van
7. Ford Ranger	7. Ford Explorer
8. GM Full Size Van	8. Plymouth Voyager
9. GM Sonoma	9. Chevrolet Blazer
10. Chrysler RAM Pick-up	10. Chevrolet Astro Van



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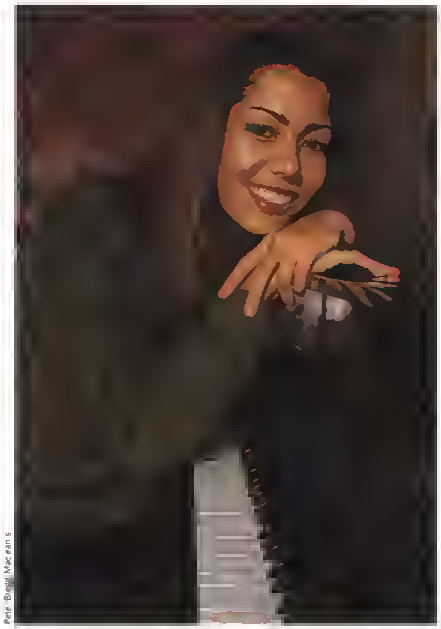
All the right piano moves

Naida Cole is winning world acclaim

Naida Cole has earned a number of distinctions as a concert pianist. The 25-year-old Toronto native was one of the youngest graduates of the Royal Conservatory of Music's associate diploma program in piano—second only to **Glenn Gould.** She is also the highest-placed Canadian in the prestigious Van Cliburn International Piano Competition held annually in Fort Worth, Tex. And Cole is the only Canadian to appear on the premier classical record label Deutsche Grammophon, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. "It is a bit overwhelming," says Cole, whose debut CD was released last month. "My first piano teacher told my parents that I was talented, but we never thought it would be like this."

Cole started playing the piano when she was 4. Five years later her family—she has one older brother—moved to Saudi Arabia for three years, where her father practised medicine. They couldn't find a piano teacher for her, so Cole started playing the flute, an instrument she has continued to study along with the piano. "When you are young, everything comes so easy," says Cole, who has perfect pitch. "I considered the piano my work and the flute my hobby." Back in Toronto, Cole juggled the pressures of school with international piano recitals. After graduation, she attended the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where she earned two bachelor of music degrees, one for each instrument.

Since then, she has performed with orchestras around the world *and* received a master's degree in music from the University of Montreal. "I want to have the opportunity to play with the greatest musicians," says Cole, who is currently in a two-year music program at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. "And in order to get to that point, I have to keep learning."



Peter Bregg/Maclean's

Cole, finding international fame 'a bit overwhelming'

Yashin's cover girl

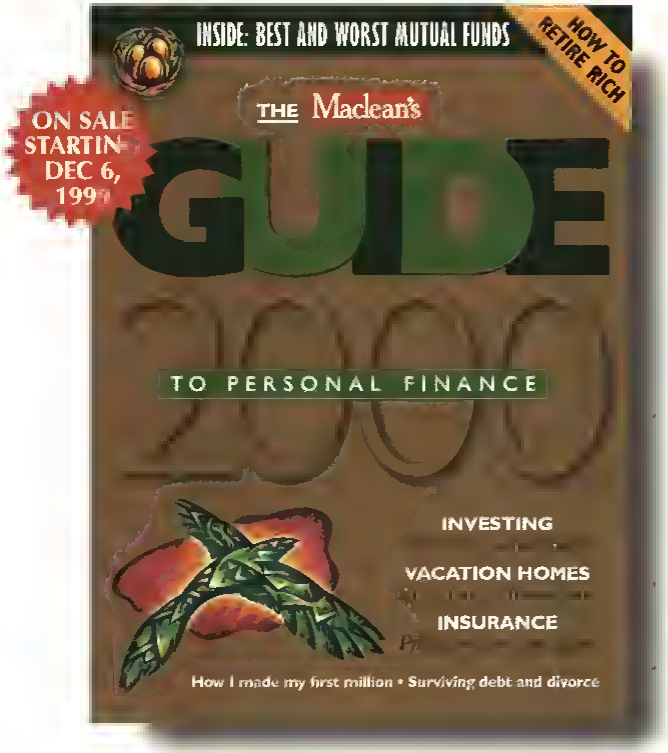
Supermodel turned actress **Carol Alt** seems to have a thing for National Hockey League team captains. Alt, 38, was previously married to former New York Rangers captain **Ron Greschner.** Now, she is dating **Alexei Yashin,** the suspended former captain of the Ottawa Senators. While Yashin has kept the budding romance quiet, Alt, who graced hundreds of magazine covers in the 1980s, has gone on the *Howard Stern Show* and *Live! with Regis and Kathie Lee* to chat about her new love. She also joined Yashin's parents, **Tatiana** and **Valery,** in Kloten, Switzerland, two weeks ago to celebrate the Russian hockey star's 26th birthday.



Lisa Rose/Schwartz Valery/Gamma Liaison

Yashin (left) and Alt: she joined his private birthday celebration

Yashin, having refused to honour the final season of his five-year, $20-million deal with the Senators, was practising with the Kloten team. The centre wanted to renegotiate his contract, seeking a two-year extension worth $16.5 million for the first year and $18 million for the second. Last week, the Senators responded by suspending him for the rest of the season. And team officials threatened to go after Yashin for compensation if the team suffers financially as a result of his absence. Yashin is lucky that Alt has work. She is now starring in the television series *Peter Benchley's Amazon.* Appropriately, it's an adventure drama.



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Allan Fotheringham

Leaders without principles

The major problem with the world is the lack of standards. Fred Astaire said it best, before he expired. "The hardest job kids face today is learning good manners without seeing any."

And so it is with principles. There was a time—you will have forgotten it—when our rulers had principles. There used to be something called responsible government, which meant that the party in power was responsible to the House of Commons, which had traditions and rules and principles.

Further, at the base of this understanding, was the belief that any cabinet minister who had lost the confidence of his cabinet—and his caucus—would resign his position as a matter of personal integrity.



Roy Peterson

That simple truism of democracy of course has long been abandoned by the arrogant clutch of mediocre minds who now clutter the front benches of the Crétenite government. As Lord Acton told us long ago, power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Faced with no real opposition, only four feckless regional rump parties, the Grits just grin and stumble along the path to a cinch third term under a prime minister so proud and so stubborn as to never sack a single incompetent because it might reflect on his own judgment in selecting such a twit.

The major goof in the dock at the moment, of course, is David Collenette, the alleged transport minister. If there ever has been a more obvious cock-up than the airline farce, we would willingly wait for further entries.

As any moron knows, Canada is so thinly populated that it can no more afford two international airlines than it can support two national newspapers. (New York City, with a population three times the size of Toronto—and Toronto's advertising base—is now down to three dailies. Toronto, home of all national advertising, cannot over time support both *The Globe and Mail* and Konrad Black's *National Post*. There will be one, in three years—owned by Konrad. I digress.)

Just as obvious as there will be just one major international airline in this oversized nation that doesn't have many people in it. Germany has just Lufthansa, Italy just Alitalia. Britain just British Air, Australia just Qantas, Russia just Aeroflot. Only the Excited States of America, with its vast population, can afford more than one.

The only reason Canada has both Air Canada and Canadian Airlines is because the supine, chicken-like Liberal party is terrified of losing what little support it has left in Western Canada, by putting the inevitable gun to the head of near-bankrupt Canadian and putting it out of its misery.

Canadian, formerly Canadian Pacific Air Lines in Vancouver (Gateway to the Orient), was doomed the day the oil-and-gas boom in Alberta moved some brilliant minds to swallow it with Pacific Western Airlines and Max Ward's wonderful Wardair charter service and roove its headquarters to Calgary.

It was an idiotic placement of course. The Gateway to the Orient on the flat prairie? To this day, most of the pilots and flight attendants of Canadian still live in mild Vancouver—as any sensible person would.

This gets us back to Collenette, who obviously was hiding behind the door when they passed the brains out. His farcical Gilbert and Sullivan act with Gerry Schwartz's Onex reveals a minister who has hit his head on his Peter Principle—a chap promoted beyond his level of competence.

Bay Street of course is laughing, since it knows takeover artist Schwartz well. The Winnipeg boy, who learned his artistry on Wall Street under leveraged buyout king Henry Kravis, was going to make his gelt whether he succeeded or failed in his audacious play.

As it turns out, his take is some $50 million—with all the Toronto lawyers and advertising executives in his wake gleefully bobbing for olives in their martinis at the coup.

And Ottawa? Principle? Accountability? We could go back to the John Diefenbaker years. When cabinet ministers, resigning over principle, were fleeing the cabinet like bankers falling out of the windows on Wall Street at the 1929 stock market crash.

Now? The only cabinet minister, thanks to the PM's overweening pride, who flounders out of the cabinet is some silly-ass New Brunswick innocent—confronted with proof he had been babbling his little mouth off about the APEC pepper soap opera on an airplane—who claimed he couldn't remember whether his seatmate was male or female.

The thuggish Senator Joe McCarthy was finally brought down in the 1954 Senate hearings when the elegant, bowtied Boston lawyer Joseph Welch said, on national television, "Have you no sense of decency, sir?" Does this government have no sense of decency? Nope.



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